



THE GOLDEN AGE

BATMAN

VOLUME TWO





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BATMAN: THE GOLDEN AGE VOLUME 2

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THE GOLDEN AGE

BATMAN

VOLUME TWO

All stories by **BILL FINGER** and all art by **BOB KANE** except where noted.

DETECTIVE COMICS #46 December 1940

Cover art by Bob Kane and Jerry Robinson
"Professor Strange's Fear Dust" *

Inkers: Bob Kane, Jerry Robinson and George Roussos
7

DETECTIVE COMICS #47 January 1941

Cover art by Bob Kane and Jerry Robinson
"Money Can't Buy Happiness" *

Inkers: Bob Kane, Jerry Robinson and George Roussos
20

BATMAN #4 Winter 1941

Cover art by Bob Kane and Jerry Robinson
"The Case of the Joker's Crime Circus"

Inkers: Jerry Robinson and George Roussos
"Blackbeard's Crew and the Yacht Society"

Inkers: Jerry Robinson and George Roussos
"Public Enemy #1" *

Inkers: Jerry Robinson and George Roussos
"Victory for the Dynamic Duo" *

Inkers: Jerry Robinson and George Roussos
34

DETECTIVE COMICS #48 February 1941

Cover art by Bob Kane and Jerry Robinson
"The Secret Cavern"

Inkers: Bob Kane, Jerry Robinson and George Roussos
88

DETECTIVE COMICS #49 March 1941

Cover art by Bob Kane and Jerry Robinson
"Clayface Walks Again"

Inkers: Bob Kane, Jerry Robinson and George Roussos
102

DETECTIVE COMICS #50 April 1941

Cover art by Bob Kane and Jerry Robinson
"The Case of the Three Devils"

Inkers: Jerry Robinson and George Roussos
116

BATMAN #5 Spring 1941

Cover art by Bob Kane

"The Riddle of the Missing Card"

Inkers: Jerry Robinson and George Roussos
"Book of Enchantment"

Inkers: Jerry Robinson and George Roussos
"The Case of the Honest Crook!"

Inkers: Jerry Robinson and George Roussos
"Crime Does Not Pay" *

Inkers: Jerry Robinson and George Roussos
130

WORLD'S BEST COMICS #1 Spring 1941

Cover art by Fred Ray

"The Witch and the Manuscript of Doom"

Inkers: Bob Kane and George Roussos
183

DETECTIVE COMICS #51 May 1941

Cover art by Bob Kane and Jerry Robinson
"The Case of the Mystery Carnival"

Inkers: Bob Kane, Jerry Robinson and George Roussos
197

DETECTIVE COMICS #52 June 1941

Cover art by Bob Kane and Jerry Robinson
"The Secret of the Jade Box"

Inkers: Bob Kane, Jerry Robinson and George Roussos
211

DETECTIVE COMICS #53 July 1941
Cover art by Bob Kane and Jerry Robinson
"Viola Vane" *
224

DETECTIVE COMICS #55 September 1941
Cover art by Bob Kane and Jerry Robinson
"The Brain Burglar"
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WORLD'S FINEST COMICS #2 Summer 1941
Cover art by Fred Ray
"The Man Who Couldn't Remember"
238

DETECTIVE COMICS #56 October 1941
Cover art by Bob Kane and Jerry Robinson
"The Stone Idol"
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DETECTIVE COMICS #54 August 1941
Cover art by Bob Kane and Jerry Robinson
"Hook Morgan and his Harbor Pirates"
252

WORLD'S FINEST COMICS #3 Fall 1941
Cover art by Fred Ray
"Riddle of the Human Scarecrow"
Inkers: Jerry Robinson and George Roussos
347

BATMAN #6 August-September 1941
Cover art by Bob Kane
"Murder on Parole"
Inkers: Jerry Robinson and George Roussos

BATMAN #7 October-November 1941
Cover art by Bob Kane
"Wanted: Practical Jokers" *
Inkers: Jerry Robinson and George Roussos

"The Clock Maker"
Inkers: Jerry Robinson and George Roussos

"The Trouble Trap"
Inkers: Jerry Robinson and George Roussos

"The Secret of the Iron Jungle"
Inkers: Jerry Robinson and George Roussos

"The North Woods Mystery"
Inkers: Jerry Robinson and George Roussos

"Suicide Beat"
Inkers: Jerry Robinson and George Roussos
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"The People vs. The Batman"
Inkers: Jerry Robinson and George Roussos
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*These titles were originally untitled and are titled here for reader convenience.

Until the 1970s, it was not common practice in the comic book industry to credit all stories. In the preparation of this collection, we have used our best efforts to review any surviving records and consult any available databases and knowledgeable parties. We regret the innate limitations of this process and any missing or misassigned attributions that may occur.



No. 46

Detective COMICS

DEC.



BATMAN

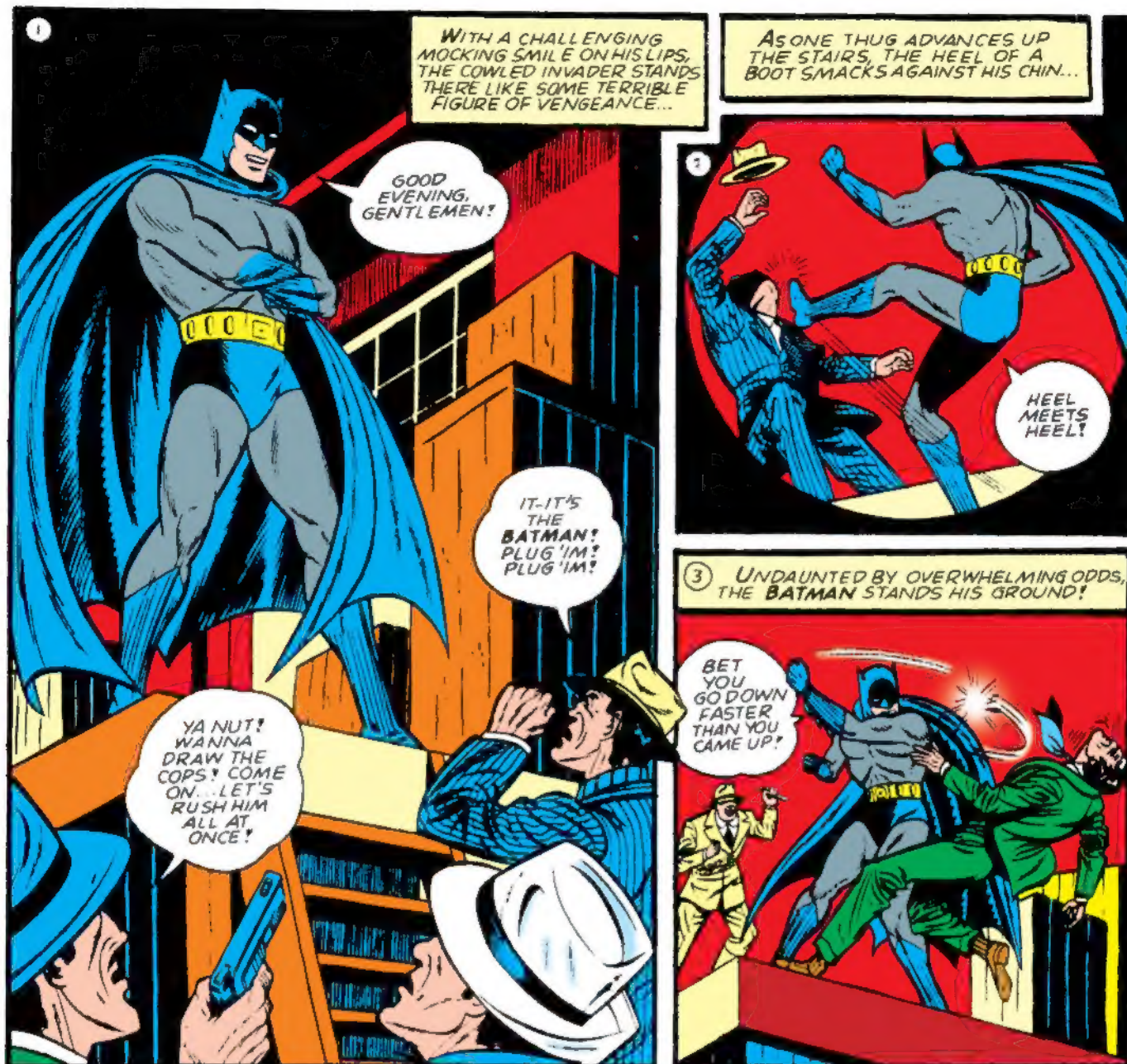
WITH
Robin
-THE BOY WONDER-

ONCE AGAIN CRIME REARS ITS UGLY HEAD TO PREY UPON SOCIETY.... AND ONCE AGAIN EMERGES THAT SUPER-FOE OF CRIME — THE BATMAN! GARBED IN THE HUES OF NIGHT ITSELF, HE HOVERS ABOVE THE HORDES OF EVIL LIKE IMPENDING DOOM.... AND ALWAYS AT HIS SIDE, LIKE A STRONG RIGHT ARM, IS GRINNING, RECKLESS ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER, WHO IS SOMETHING OF A CRIME-BUSTER IN HIS OWN RIGHT!

LEITCHER SILVER CO.

AS THE THIEVES BEGIN TO LOOT A WAREHOUSE, SUDDENLY A BAT-CLOAKED SHAPE SWINGS OVER THEIR HEADS...

...TO PLUMMET DOWN LIGHTLY ATOP THE WAREHOUSE STEPS!



① AS THE THUGS SHAKILY PICK THEMSELVES UP!...



OW!
MY
HEAD!

WHAT
HIT
ME?

'MUSTA
BEEN
A
HURRICANE
PASSING
BY!

...THE BATMAN CATAPULTS FORWARD... AND DOWN THEY GO AGAIN!



ZORN'S
CANDY
SHOP

MOVING EASILY, DECEPTIVELY SWIFT AS A STRIKING SNAKE, THE BATMAN WEAVES ABOUT THE MEN, HIS FISTS INDUCING QUICK SLEEP!



OKAY...
YOU CAN
RELAX
NOW!

④ AS HIS HAND CLOSES ABOUT A SURVIVING HOODLUM...



D... DON'T
HIT ME!
PLEASE
DON'T HIT
ME!

WHA TH...! A
KID... A KID NO
MORE THAN
SEVENTEEN
AT MOST!



OKAY, KID, I
WON'T HIT
YOU - BUT
YOU'RE
GOING TO
JAIL LIKE
THE REST OF
YOUR
PALS!

JAIL! DON'T
SEND ME
TO JAIL!
IT WOULD
KILL MY
MOTHER!
SHE
DOESN'T
KNOW
ABOUT
THIS!

⑥ I SHOULD THINK SHE WOULDN'T, BUT JUST THE SAME, I...

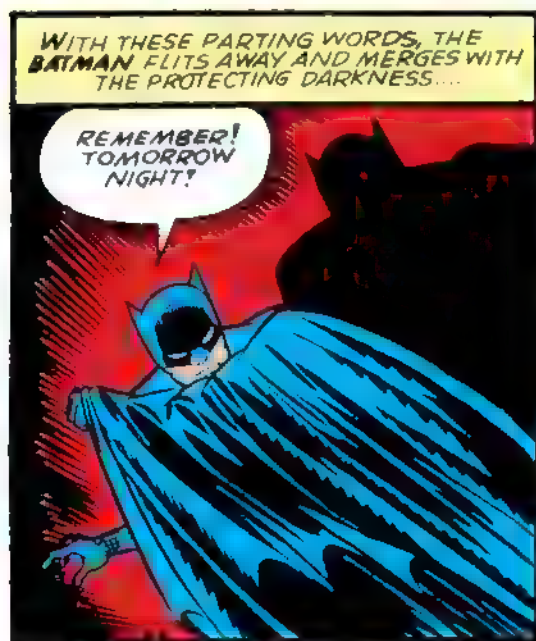
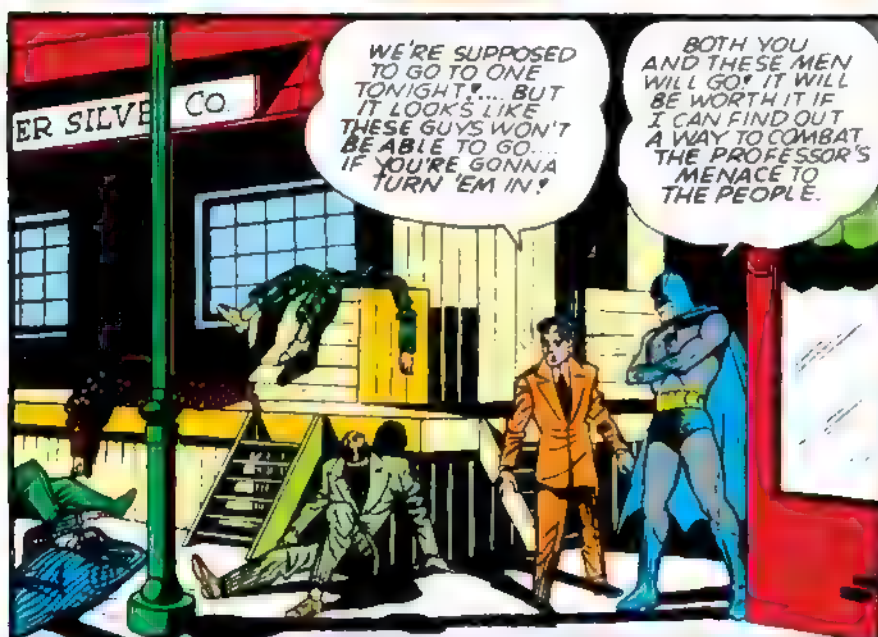
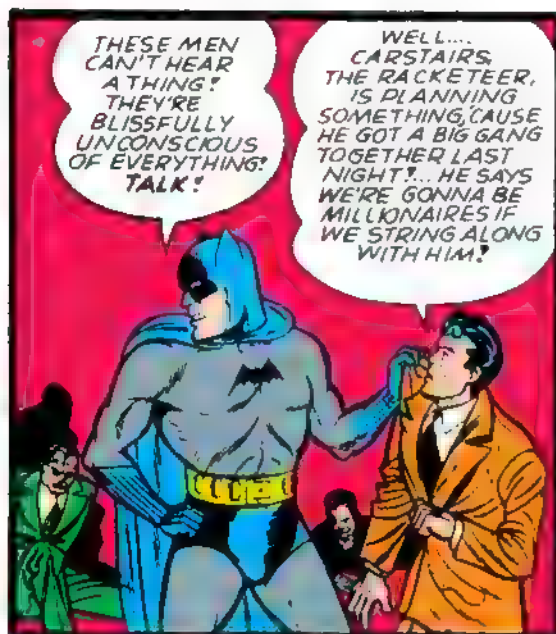


DON'T SEND
ME TO JAIL!
PLEASE! I'LL DO
ANYTHING! I'LL
EVEN TELL YOU
ABOUT SOMETHING,
SOMETHING
BIG!

⑦ "SOMETHING BIG?"
WHAT ARE YOU
TALKING ABOUT?
SPILL IT!



YOU GOTTA
PROMISE TO
PROTECT ME!
IF THEY EVER
KNEW, MY
LIFE WOULDN'T
BE WORTH
TWO PINS!

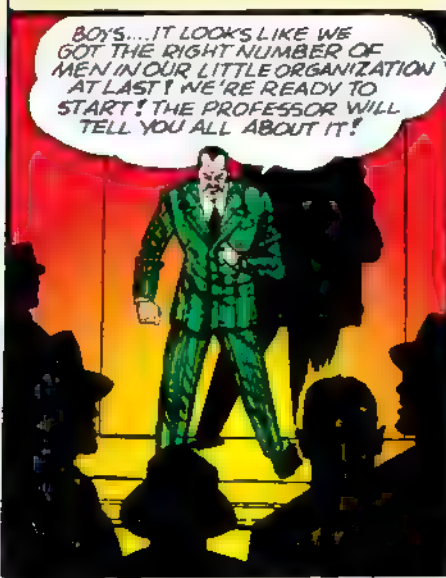


THE MEN SPEED IN THEIR CAR TO AN OLD HOUSE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN.....



HURRY-WE CAN'T BE LATE FOR THE MEETING! YEAH...CARSTAIRS WILL BE HERE, SURE...

INSIDE, THEIR LEADER ADDRESSES THEM



BOYS....IT LOOKS LIKE WE GOT THE RIGHT NUMBER OF MEN IN OUR LITTLE ORGANIZATION AT LAST! WE'RE READY TO START! THE PROFESSOR WILL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT!

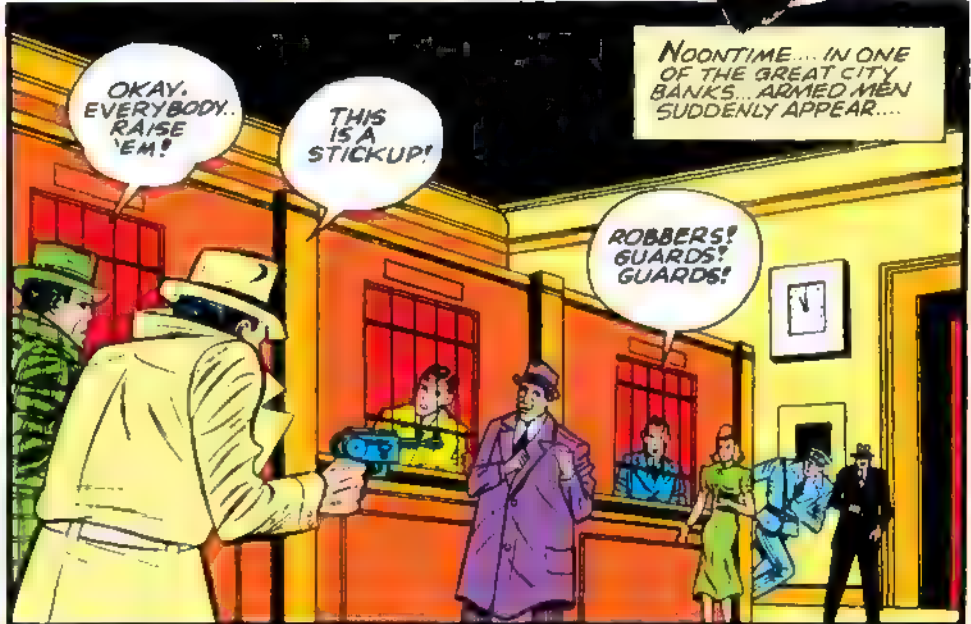
INTO THE ROOM WALKS A MAN ONCE THOUGHT DEAD--THE CRAFTY, DIABOLICAL, ARCH-CRIMINAL, PROFESSOR HUGO STRANGE!



I WILL GIVE YOU YOUR INSTRUCTIONS NOW. FOR TOMORROW WE STRIKE! TOMORROW AT NOON-TIME! NOW, LISTEN CAREFULLY...



NOON TOMORROW! AND I'M TO MEET THE BATMAN AT NIGHT! BY THAT TIME IT WILL BE TOO LATE! TOO LATE!



OKAY, EVERYBODY. RAISE 'EM!

THIS IS A STICKUP!

NOONTIME... IN ONE OF THE GREAT CITY BANKS... ARMED MEN SUDDENLY APPEAR....

ROBBERS! GUARDS! GUARDS!

AS THE GUARDS RUN UP PULLING AT THEIR REVOLVERS, CARSTAIRS' THUGS SUDDENLY SQUEEZE THE TRIGGERS OF THEIR STRANGE GUNS, AND A FINE SPRAY EMANATES.....



THROW DOWN THOSE..... WHA...?

HA...HA... HA...?

... AS THEY BREATHE THE SPRAY, A WEIRD THING HAPPENS... THE GUARDS DROP THEIR GUNS AND COWER BEFORE THE HOODLUMS IN UTTER TERROR...



D-DON'T SHOOT US! PLEASE DON'T SHOOT!

IT WORKED! LOOK AT THEM! IT WORKED!

THE BANK LOOTED, THE THUGS RACE OUTSIDE TO MEET POLICEMEN WHO WERE ATTRACTED BY THE TELLER'S SHOUT...



GIVE IT TO 'EM!

WHAT?

TREMBLING WITH FEAR, THE POLICE
QUAIL BEFORE THE BANDITS...ICY TERROR
CLUTCHES THEIR HEARTS.....



D-DON'T
HIT
ME!

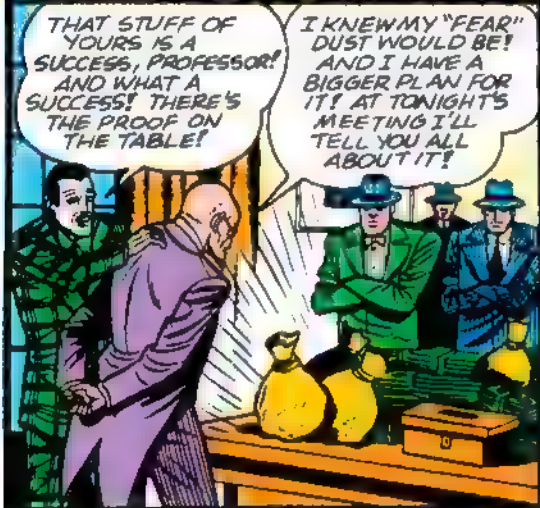
HAW, HAW!
LOOK AT HIM!...
SCARED STIFF!
HAW
HAW!

FIRST TIME
I EVER
SAW A
POLICEMAN
SCARED BEFORE!
SURE IS A
NOVELTY!



AND ALL OVER THE CITY IT IS THE
SAME! BANDITS LOOT BANKS, WARE-
HOUSES, STORES, AS A STRANGE MALADY
SEIZES THE PEOPLE... FEAR... FEAR HAS
BECOME MASTER OF THE CITY!

AND LATER THAT DAY, WHEN THE BANDITS
BRING THEIR PLUNDER, THAT MASTER OF
VILLAINY, PROFESSOR STRANGE, IS
JUBILANT!



THAT STUFF OF
YOURS IS A
SUCCESS, PROFESSOR!
AND WHAT A
SUCCESS! THERE'S
THE PROOF ON
THE TABLE!

I KNEW MY "FEAR"
DUST WOULD BE!
AND I HAVE A
BIGGER PLAN FOR
IT! AT TONIGHT'S
MEETING I'LL
TELL YOU ALL
ABOUT IT!

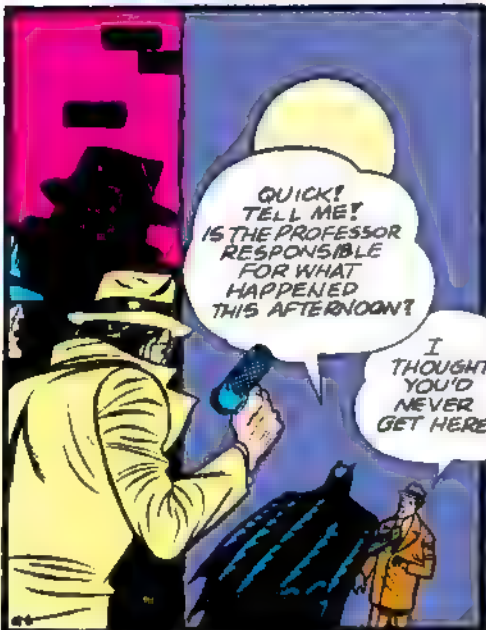
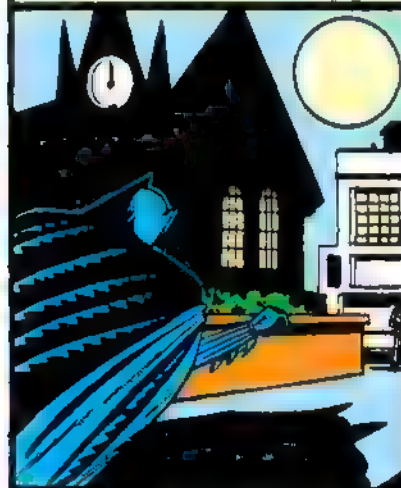
AS
THE MEN
PREPARE TO
LEAVE, PROFESSOR
STRANGE'S SHREWD
EYES GROW HARD...

AT LAST
NIGHT'S
MEETING THAT
BOY THERE
LOOKED NERVOUS,
STRAINED! I'VE
A FEELING HE'S
UP TO SOMETHING.

YEAH...
HE DOES
AT THAT!
I'LL HAVE
A FEW
OF THE
BOYS
TAIL
HIM!



THAT
NIGHT, AS
A COWLED
FIGURE DARTS
ACROSS SHADOWY
STREETS, THE CLOCK
TOLLS MIDNIGHT HOUR.... IS
THIS TOLLING THE DEATH-
KNELL OF THE BATMAN?
DOES THE BATMAN KEEP A
RENDEZVOUS WITH DEATH?



QUICK!
TELL ME!
IS THE PROFESSOR
RESPONSIBLE
FOR WHAT
HAPPENED
THIS AFTERNOON?

I
THOUGHT
YOU'D
NEVER
GET HERE!

BUT THE BATMAN IS
NEVER TO HEAR THE
ANSWER TO THAT
QUESTION, FOR AT THAT
MOMENT A CRUSHING BLOW
RENDERS HIM SENSELESS!

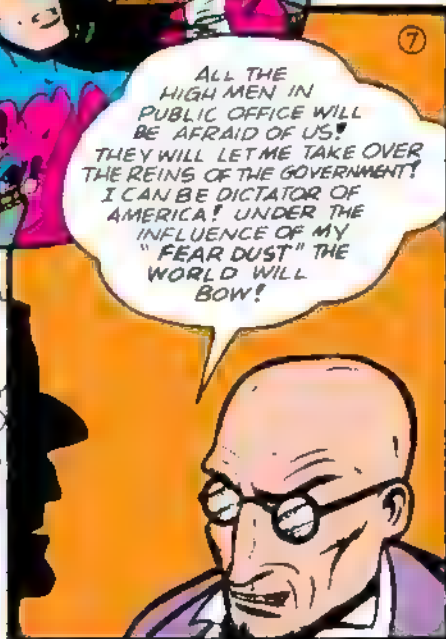
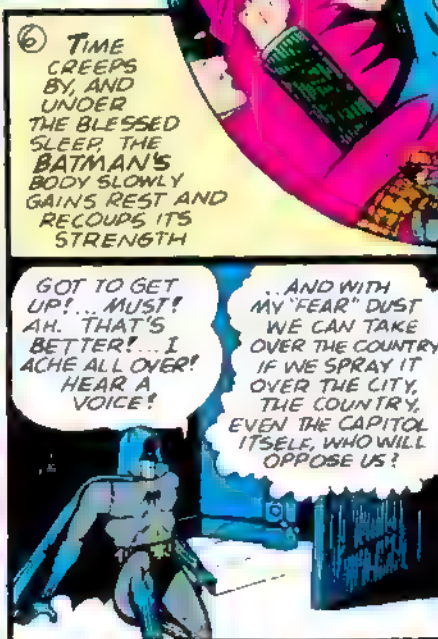
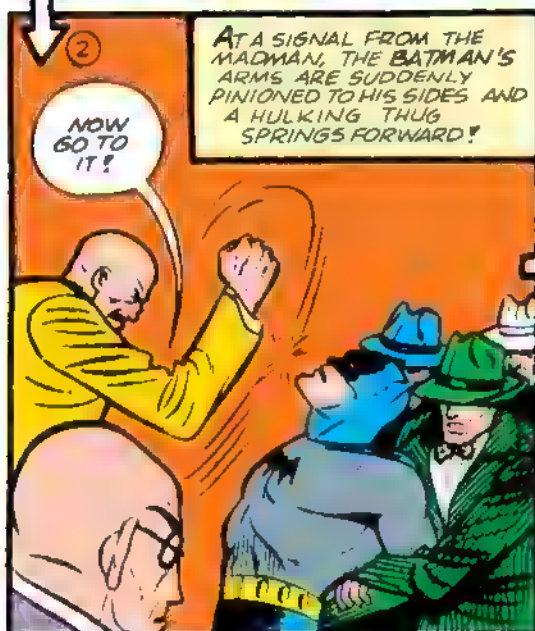
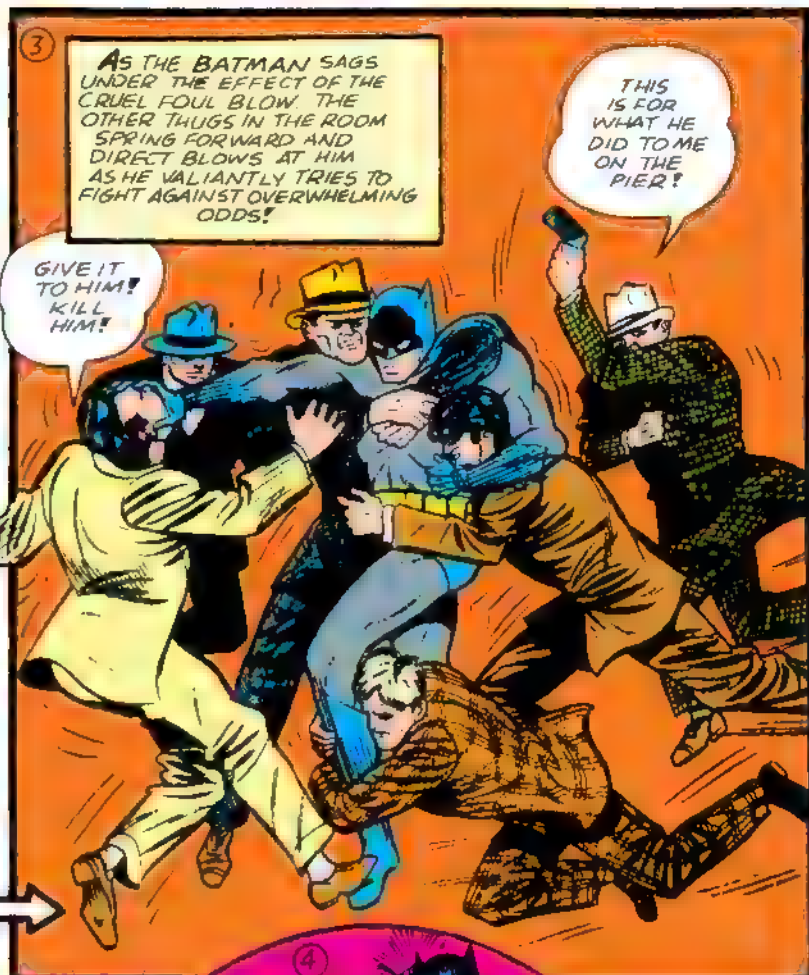
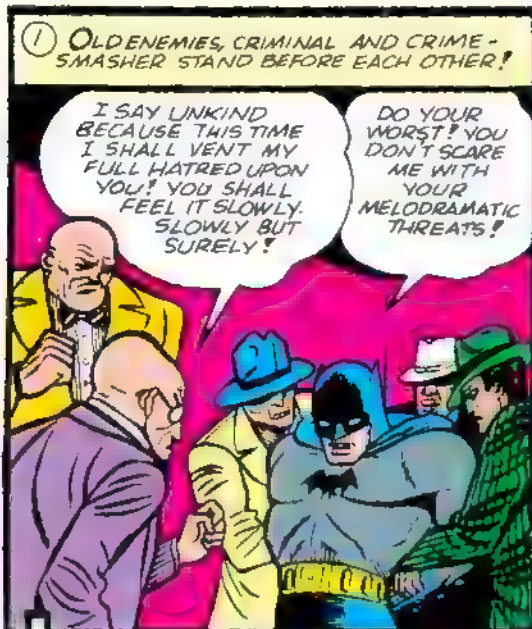


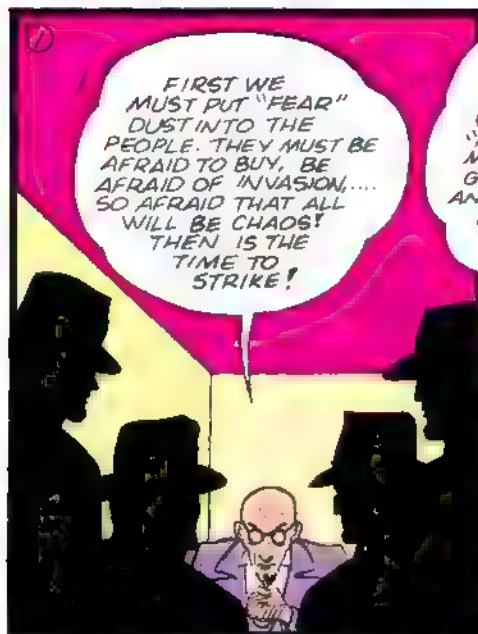
... AND WHEN THE BATMAN AWAKENS,
HE SEES BEFORE HIM A FACE HE HAD
HOPED NEVER TO SEE AGAIN....

PROFESSOR
STRANGE! YOU-
YOU'RE THE
PROFESSOR! I
SHOULD HAVE
KNOWN IT
WOULD BE
YOU!

GREETINGS,
BATMAN....
IT SEEMS
THAT FATE
HAS SEEN TO
IT THAT WE
SHOULD MEET
AGAIN! FATE
HAS BEEN UNKIND
THIS TIME... TO
YOU!







1 FIRST WE MUST PUT "FEAR" DUST INTO THE PEOPLE. THEY MUST BE AFRAID TO BUY, BE AFRAID OF INVASION,.... SO AFRAID THAT ALL WILL BE CHAOS! THEN IS THE TIME TO STRIKE!



2 HERE ARE PAPERS, GIVING YOU ALL INSTRUCTIONS WHERE TO SPRAY THE "FEAR" DUST! I MYSELF WILL GET MY PLANE AND DISCHARGE DUST OVER THE CITY!

CAN'T TRUST MYSELF TO RUSH THEM YET, TILL I GET MY FULL STRENGTH BACK! MUST WAIT!



3 SOMETIME LATER THE THREE MEN LEFT AS GUARDS. SUDDENLY SEE THE DOOR OPEN AND A SLUMPING FIGURE STAND WEAKLY ON THE THRESHOLD!

OH.... STILL HERE?... I..... THOUGHT...

WELL-WELL! LOOK WHO'S UP!

C'MON-LET'S GET TO WORK ON HIM AGAIN AND PUT HIM BACK TO SLEEP



4 SUDDENLY THE SLUMPING FORM STRAIGHTENS, SMOOTH MUSCLES RIPPLE, SUGGESTING HIDDEN STRENGTH, AS THE GIGANTIC FRAME OF THE BATMAN STANDS TOWERING IN THE LIGHT!

SO YOU THINK IT'S FUNNY, EH?...

ULP!

HUH?

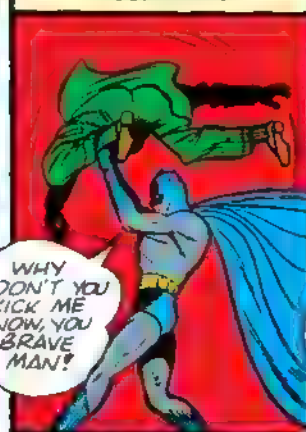


5 WELL. THIS OUGHT TO PUT YOU IN STITCHES!

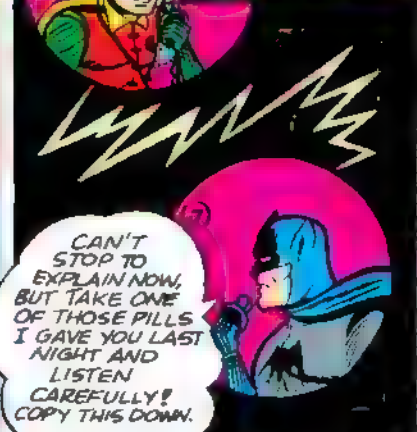
6 YEARS OF RIGOROUS ATHLETIC TRAINING HAVE ENABLED THE BATMAN NOT ONLY TO RESIST BUT TO RECOVER FROM THE BRUTAL BEATING THAT WOULD HAVE MORTALLY INJURED MOST MEN!

OH, IT'S YOU, BATMAN! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN THE WHOLE NIGHT? I'VE BEEN WANDERING ALL AROUND TOWN LOOKING FOR YOU!

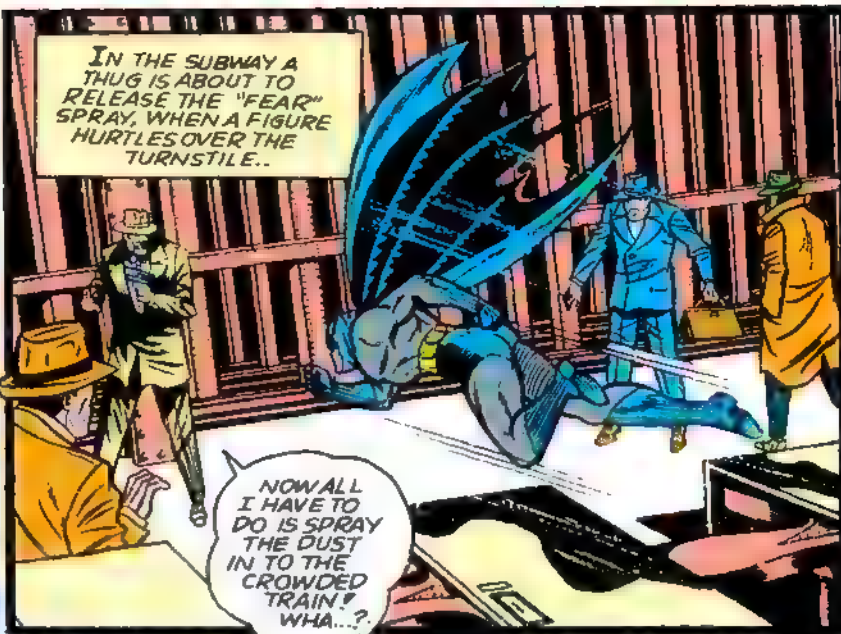
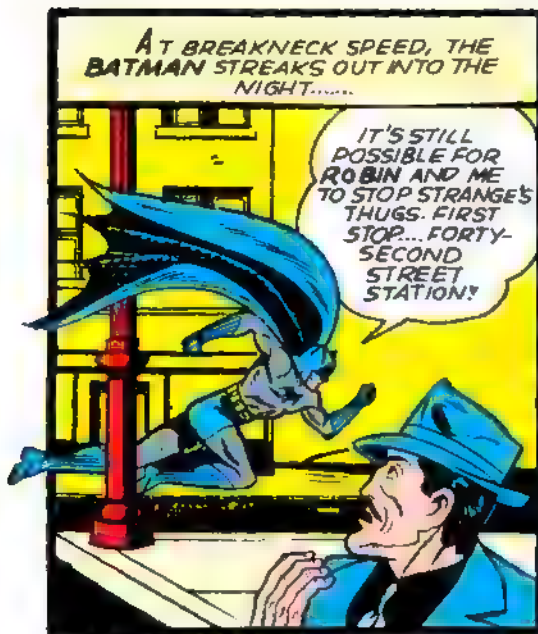
RIFLING THE PROFESSOR'S PAPERS, THE BATMAN FINDS THE LIST OF INSTRUCTIONS AND THEN HASTILY CONTACTS HIS YOUNG AIDE, ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER!



WHY DON'T YOU KICK ME NOW, YOU BRAVE MAN!



CAN'T STOP TO EXPLAIN NOW, BUT TAKE ONE OF THOSE PILLS I GAVE YOU LAST NIGHT AND LISTEN CAREFULLY! COPY THIS DOWN.

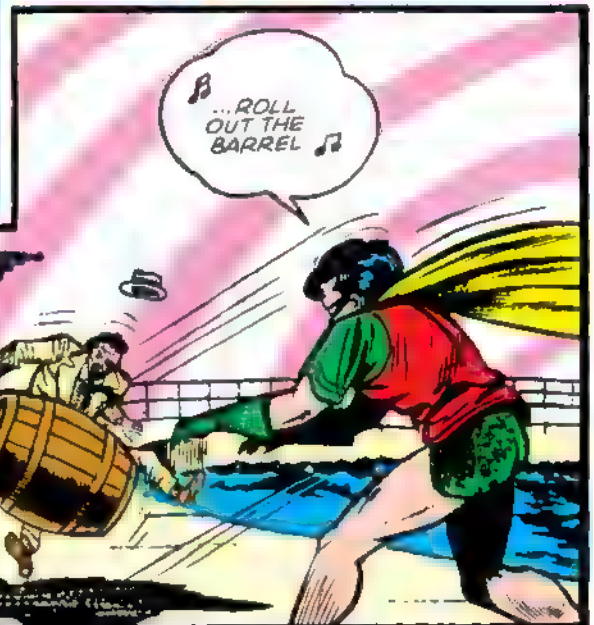
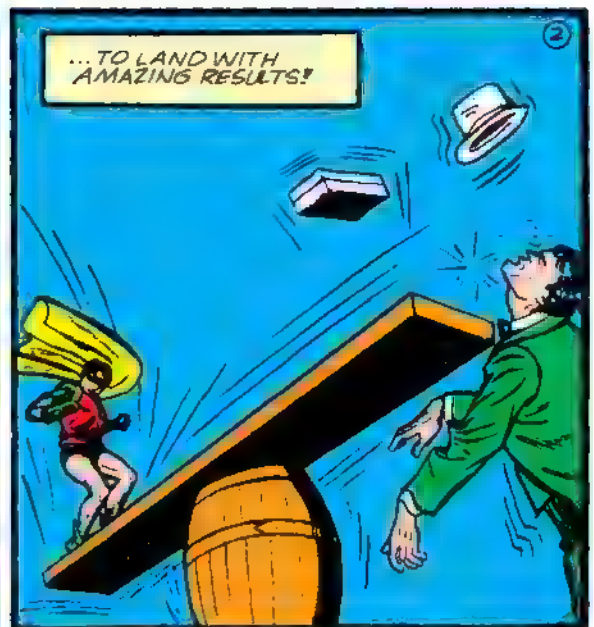
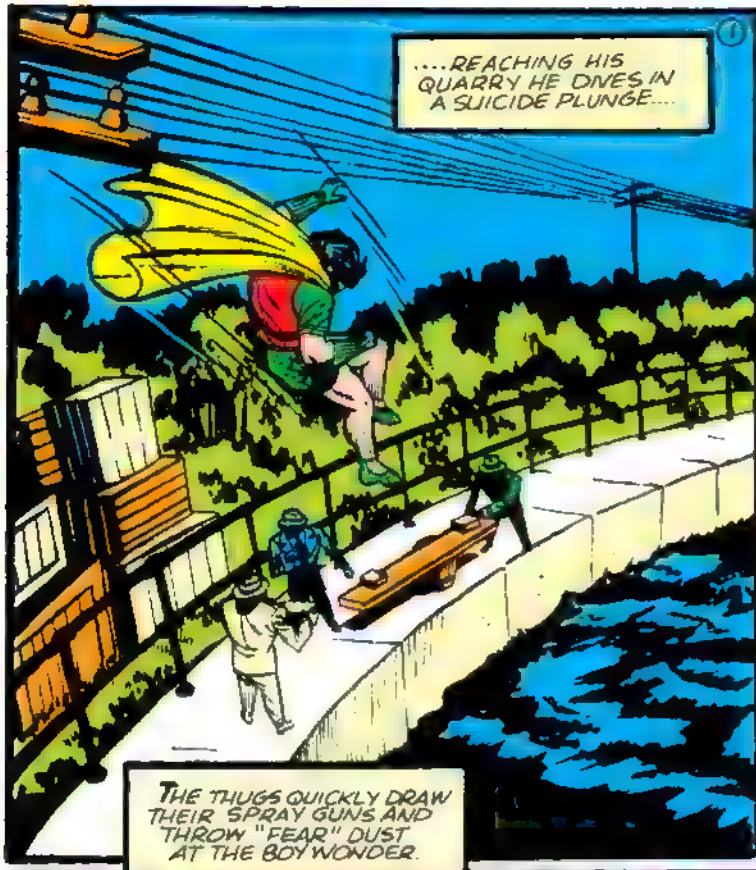


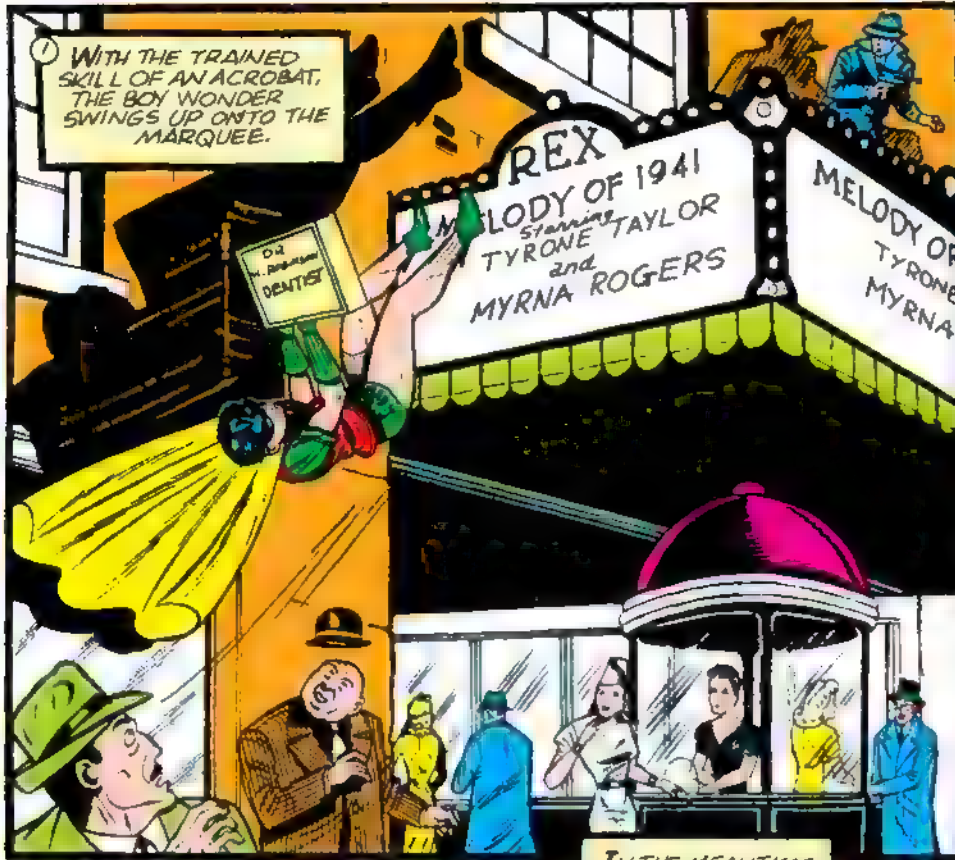
... HE SLAMS INTO HIM LIKE A HUMAN BATTERING RAM....



... AND SENDS HIM SAILING WITH A WELL-PLACED BLOW!





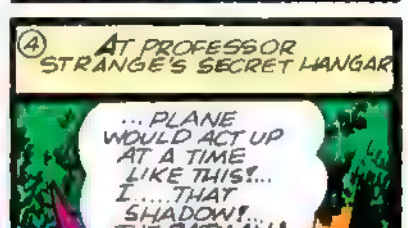


1 WITH THE TRAINED SKILL OF AN ACROBAT, THE BOY WONDER SWINGS UP ONTO THE MARQUEE.



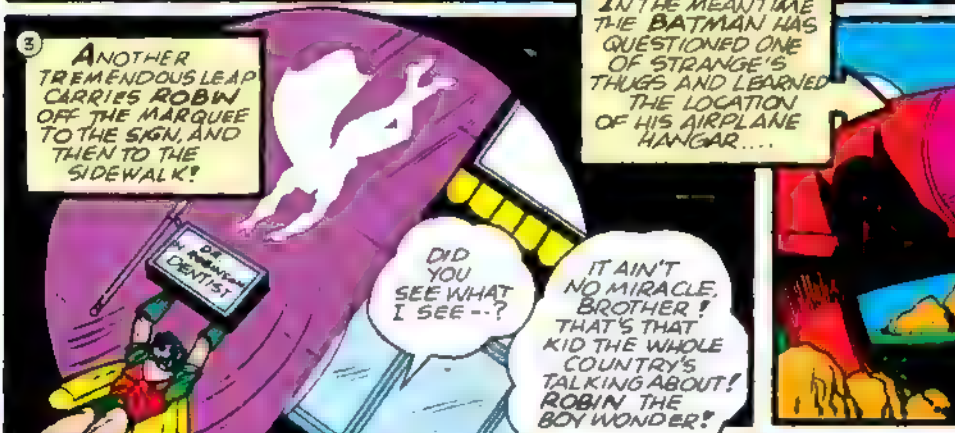
2 AND DROPS THE HOODLUM WITH A PARALYZING PUNCH!

COMB THIS OUT OF YOUR WHISKERS!



4 AT PROFESSOR STRANGE'S SECRET HANGAR

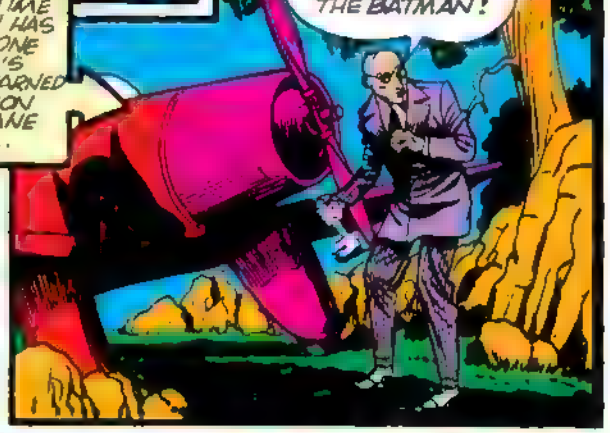
... PLANE WOULD ACT UP AT A TIME LIKE THIS!... I... THAT SHADOW!... THE BATMAN!



3 ANOTHER TREMENDOUS LEAP CARRIES ROBIN OFF THE MARQUEE TO THE SIDEWALK, AND THEN TO THE SIDEWALK!

DID YOU SEE WHAT I SEE--?

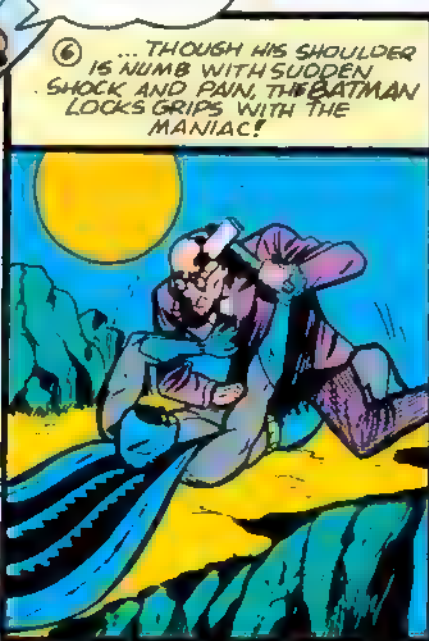
IT AIN'T NO MIRACLE, BROTHER! THAT'S THAT KID THE WHOLE COUNTRY'S TALKING ABOUT! ROBIN THE BOY WONDER!



7 THE BATTLE BECOMES A GRIM ONE, WITH DEATH WAITING TO CLAIM THE LOSER!



I'LL KILL YOU ONCE AND FOR ALL!



6 ... THOUGH HIS SHOULDER IS NUMB WITH SUDDEN SHOCK AND PAIN, THE BATMAN LOOKS GRIPS WITH THE MANIAC!



WITH A CRY OF RAGE, THE MAD PROFESSOR WHIRLS SO SUDDENLY THAT HE TAKES EVEN THE BATMAN BY SURPRISE....

ABRUPTLY, THE ARCH-CRIMINAL MANAGES TO LOOSEN HIS HAND, AND LASHES OUT AT THE BATMAN....



BLAST YOU!

MISSED! TSK, TSK!

.... BUT THE NIMBLE BATMAN IS NOT TO BE CAUGHT NAPPING A SECOND TIME. THERE IS A CRACK LIKE THAT OF A RIFLE SHOT AS HIS FISTS LAND ON THE CRIMINAL'S CHIN.....



BUT I WON'T!

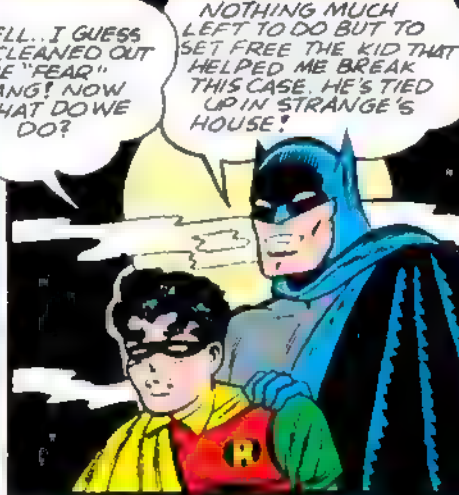
...FOR A MOMENT HE TEETERS ON THE EDGE, CLAWING FOR BALANCE, AND THEN WITH A TRAILING SHRIEK TOPPLES TO HIS DOOM!



WELL....THIS TIME IT REALLY LOOKS AS IF IT IS THE END OF THE EVIL CAREER OF PROFESSOR HUGO STRANGE!

WELL...I GUESS WE CLEANED OUT THE "FEAR" GANG! NOW WHAT DO WE DO?

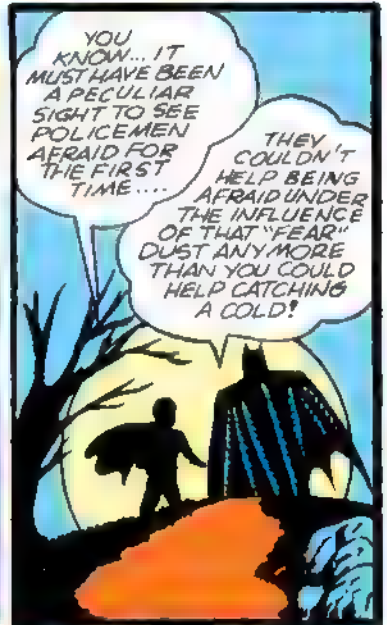
THAT NIGHT, AS THE MOON SHEDS ITS LIGHT OVER A NOW PEACEFUL CITY, TWO FIGURES STAND ON A LONELY ROAD....



NOTHING MUCH LEFT TO DO BUT TO SET FREE THE KID THAT HELPED ME BREAK THIS CASE. HE'S TIED UP IN STRANGE'S HOUSE!

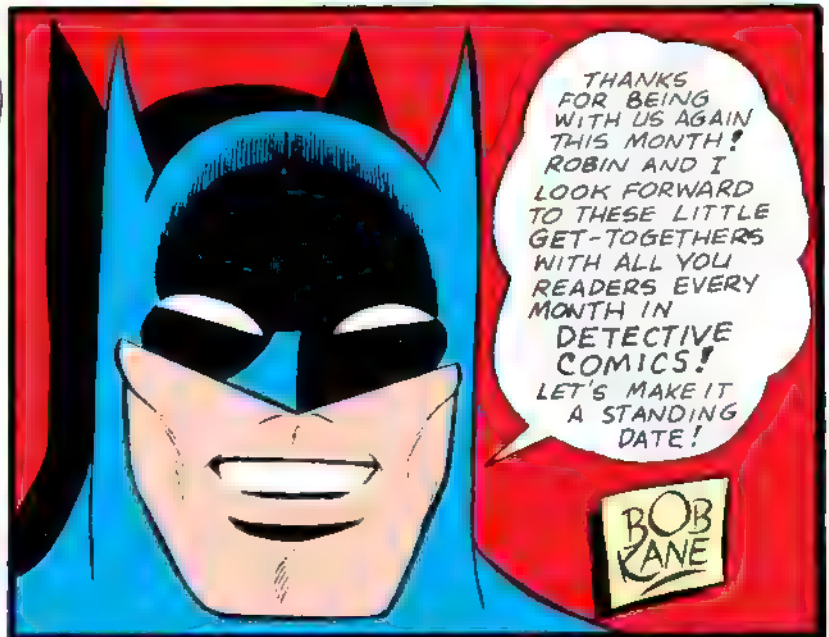
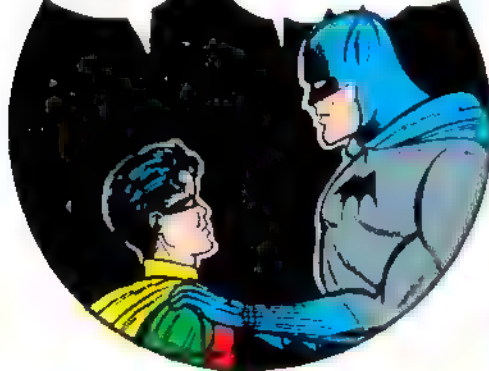
YOU KNOW...IT MUST HAVE BEEN A PECULIAR SIGHT TO SEE POLICEMEN AFRAID FOR THE FIRST TIME....

THEY COULDN'T HELP BEING AFRAID UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THAT "FEAR" DUST ANY MORE THAN YOU COULD HELP CATCHING A COLD!



WHAT ABOUT THE PEOPLE THE "FEAR" DUST AFFECTED? WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT THEM?

I'LL GIVE THE PILLS TO A RESEARCH LABORATORY. THEY'LL FIND OUT WHAT THEY'RE MADE OF AND MAKE ENOUGH ANTIDOTE FOR THOSE POOR UNFORTUNATES!



THANKS FOR BEING WITH US AGAIN THIS MONTH! ROBIN AND I LOOK FORWARD TO THESE LITTLE GET-TOGETHERS WITH ALL YOU READERS EVERY MONTH IN DETECTIVE COMICS! LET'S MAKE IT A STANDING DATE!

BOB KANE



No. 47



JAN.

Detective COMICS



BOB
KANE

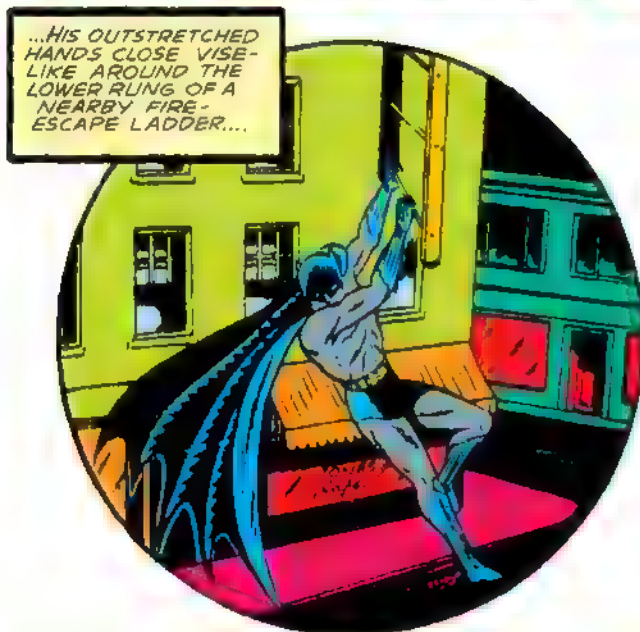
BAT MAN

WITH
Robin
THE BOY WONDER

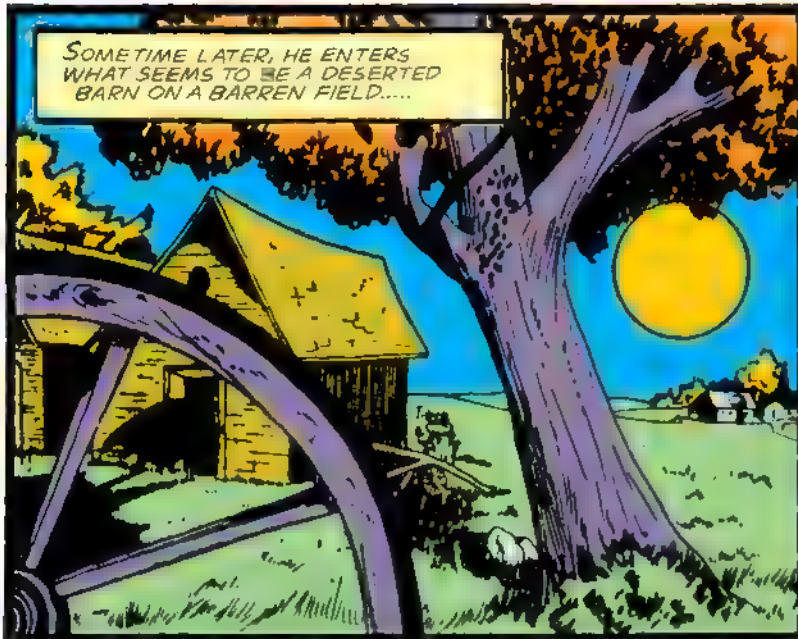
ALL THE WORLD KNOWS OF THE BATMAN! HE IS A CREATION OF THE NIGHT... ELUSIVE AS A SMEAR OF SMOKE DANGEROUS AS A STRIKING PANTHER... IT IS HE, AND HIS DARING YOUNG AIDE, ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER, WHO, BY THEIR WITS AND THUNDERING FISTS, WAGE UNCEASING WAR AGAINST CRIME, AND BRING JUSTICE WHERE IT HAS NEVER BEEN BEFORE!...

AS HOODLUMS ARE ENGAGED IN HIJACKING A TRUCKLOAD OF FURS, SUDDENLY, A MANTLED FIGURE DROPS ATOP THE TRUCK, AND PLUCKING UP A SQUIRMING THUG FROM THE RUNNING BOARD.....

HURLS HIM LIKE A RAG DOLL AT THE CRIMINALS BELOW!



SOMETIME LATER, HE ENTERS WHAT SEEMS TO BE A DESERTED BARN ON A BARREN FIELD.....



UPON PRESSING A BUTTON, A SECTION OF THE BARN'S FLOOR SLIDES AWAY, REVEALING A FLIGHT OF STEPS...



.... HE PADS SILENTLY THROUGH THE TUNNEL BELOW.....



... HE ASCENDS ANOTHER FLIGHT OF STEPS AT THE END OF THE LONG TUNNEL.....



.... AND STEPS THROUGH ANOTHER PANEL INTO A LUXURIOUSLY FURNISHED ROOM!

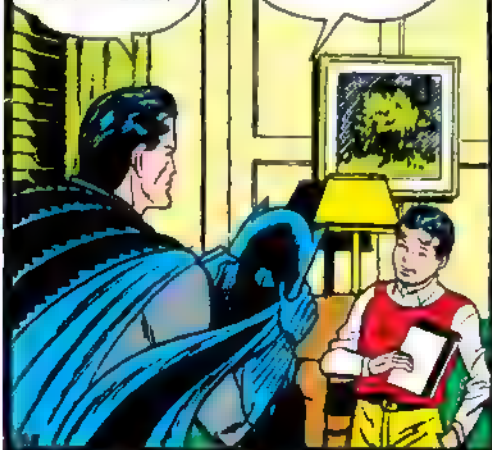


H'YA DICKEY, M'LAD!

THE SECRET LABYRINTH HAS LED TO THE LAIR OF THE BATMAN!

...JUST A MINOR SKIRMISH WITH THE CRIMINAL ELEMENT! ANYONE PHONE WHILE I WAS GONE?

YOUR BANKER, HARVEY MIDAS, SAID TO CALL IN THE MORNING FOR THE ANNUAL REPORT ON YOUR HOLDINGS!



...IN THE MORNING, HE STEPS FROM THE DOORWAY OF HIS PRIVATE HOME... NOT AS THE EERIE BATMAN... BUT AS THE SPENDTHRIFT, PLEASURE-LOVING SOCIETY PLAY BOY.... BRUCE WAYNE!

HMM! NICE DAY FOR A BIT OF POLO!

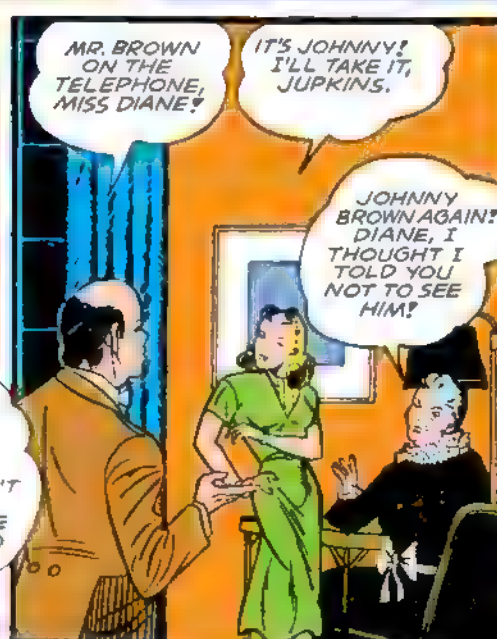
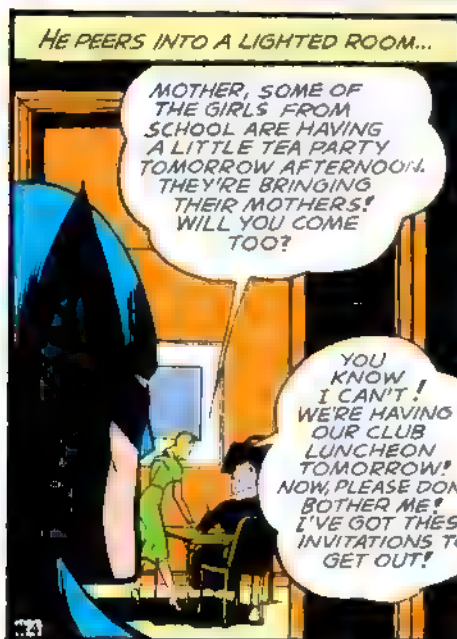
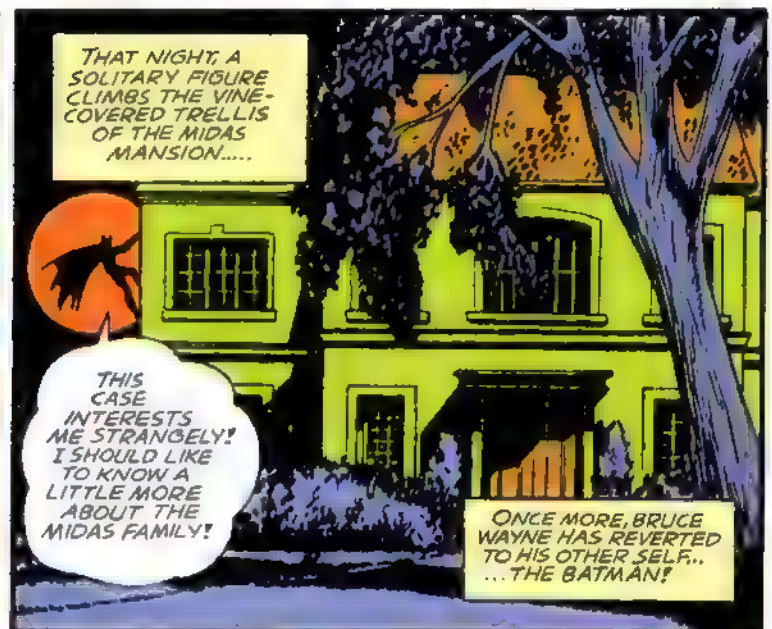
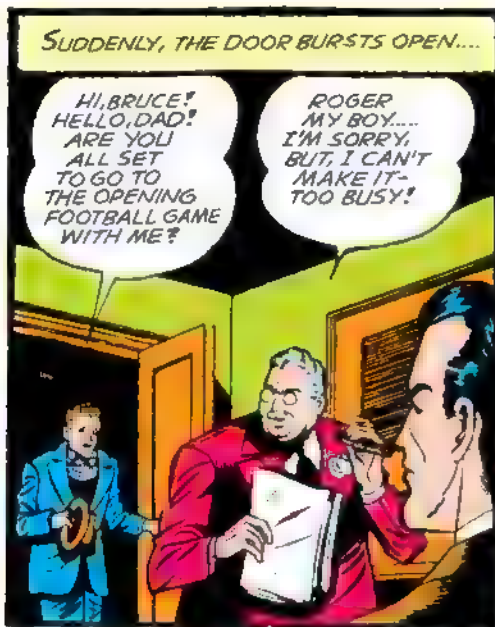


LATER, HE ENTERS THE SUMPTUOUS OFFICE OF HARVEY MIDAS, MULTI-MILLIONAIRE BANKER.

HELLO MIDAS! HOW'S THE MARKET BEEN TREATING YOU LATELY?

ARRUMPH! NOT BAD, BRUCE... NOT BAD! NOW LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS! CAN ONLY SPARE A MOMENT OR TWO! PRESSED FOR TIME, YOU KNOW!





IN THE ENSUING DAYS, BRUCE WAYNE IS SEEN IN MANY NIGHT SPOTS.....

I SEE BRUCE WAYNE IS OUT AGAIN TONIGHT. DOESN'T HE EVER GO HOME?

THAT FELLOW'S CHIEF OCCUPATION SEEMS TO BE JUST RUNNING AROUND THE NIGHTCLUBS!

BUT THEY ARE WRONG, FOR BRUCE WAYNE'S CHIEF OCCUPATION AT THE MOMENT IS KEEPING A WATCHFUL EYE ON YOUNG ROGER MIDAS!

THAT KID HAS BEEN HITTING IT UP QUITE A BIT THESE NIGHTS!

YOUNG ROGER IS SEEN AT THE GAMBLING TABLES, NIGHT AFTER NIGHT... BUT, ALWAYS LURKING IN THE BACKGROUND, IS BRUCE WAYNE?

BETS, PLEASE!

100 ON 18 RED.

ONE NIGHT, BRUCE IS SURPRISED WHEN ROGER PICKS UP A CLARINET FROM ONE OF THE MEN OF THE NIGHTCLUB BAND AND PLAYS ALONG WITH THEM...

... SAY- THAT BOY'S GOOD!

... AND WHEN BRUCE CALLS ROGER TO HIS TABLE AND ASKS HIM ABOUT IT...

SAY, ROG.... YOU CAN REALLY PLAY THAT THING, CAN'T YOU?

YOU NEVER KNEW I WANTED TO LEAD MY OWN ORCHESTRA, DID YOU? FATHER WOULDN'T HEAR OF IT.. SAID IT WOULD NEVER DO FOR THE SON OF HARVEY MIDAS TO BE A MERE ORCHESTRA LEADER!

IT IS NOT SO LONG AFTER, THAT DIANE MIDAS MAKES HER DEBUT INTO SOCIETY..... AND WHAT A DEBUT IT IS.....

Society
by Jerry Robinson

DIANE MIDAS MAKES DEBUT

DEB'S COMING OUT PARTY COSTS \$50,000

MOST LAVISH OF ALL DEBUTS

... AND UNDER THE STRONG INFLUENCE OF HER SOCIAL-MINDED FATHER AND MOTHER MARRIES NOT JOHNNY BROWN, BUT A DEFUNCT EUROPEAN COUNT!

DARLING! NOW, YOU ARE MINE!

YES, AND SO'S MY MONEY!

AND AT HIS HOME, BRUCE WAYNE PONDER'S...

FATHER AND MOTHER MIDAS HAVE CERTAINLY MADE A WRECK OF THEIR CHILDREN'S LIVES! IF THERE WERE ONLY SOMETHING I COULD DO..... IF ONLY SOMETHING WOULD HAPPEN....

BUT, SOMETHING WILL HAPPEN..... EVENTS HAVE ALREADY SHAPED THEMSELVES SO THAT BRUCE WAYNE MAY DISCARD THE ROLE OF IDLE PLAYBOY, AND BECOME THE EERIE BATMAN.

IN THE ENSUING MONTHS, ROGER IS SEEN CONSTANTLY WITH EVIL COMPANIONS... ONE NIGHT AS GAMBLERS AND HE PREPARE FOR A GALA EVENING....

C'MON, ROGER... LET'S GO DOWN TO AL'S PLACE!

SURE... AL'S PLACE? YIPPEE! HIC!

AS IF OUT OF THE EMPTY SKY, A WEIRD FIGURE PLUMMETS DOWN!



STRANGE COMPANY YOU KEEP, ROGER - TIN HORN GAMBLERS!

GET THIS CAR GOIN'! GET OUTTA HERE!

THE BATMAN!

AS THE CAR DARTS FORWARD, THE TIPSY BOY IS UNABLE TO CONTROL THE WHEEL, AND IT CAREENS MADLY.

HEY... TAKE IT EASY! LOOK OUT... THE NEWSBOY!

LIKE A JUGGERNAUT, THE CAR HURTTLES TOWARD THE HELPLESS BOY.

...THE CAR SPEEDS AWAY, LEAVING BEHIND A STILL FORM SPRAWLED IN THE GUTTER!

I-I HIT HIM! I OUGHT TO TAKE HIM TO A HOSPITAL!

KEEP GOIN', YOU FOOL! DO YOU WANT TO GET ARRESTED?

YEAH! I GUESS HE WOULDN'T WANT IT KNOWN THAT HIS SON WAS A HIT AND RUN DRIVER!

YOU FELLOWS WON'T TELL ANYBODY ABOUT THIS, WILL YOU? MY FATHER WOULDN'T LIKE IT!

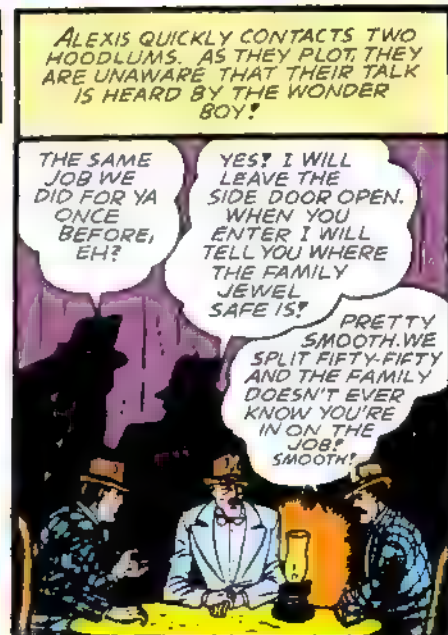
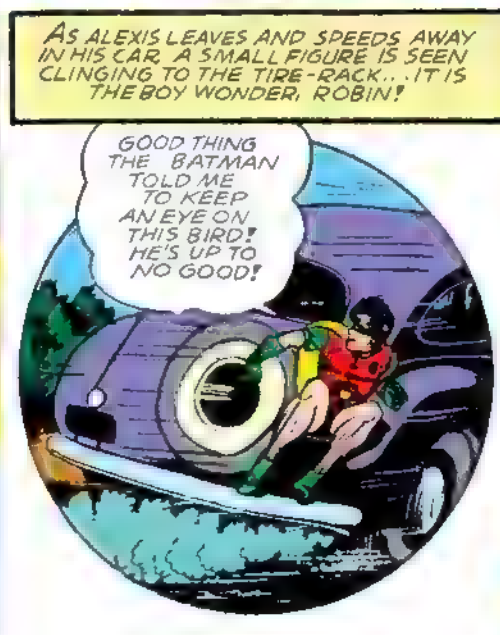
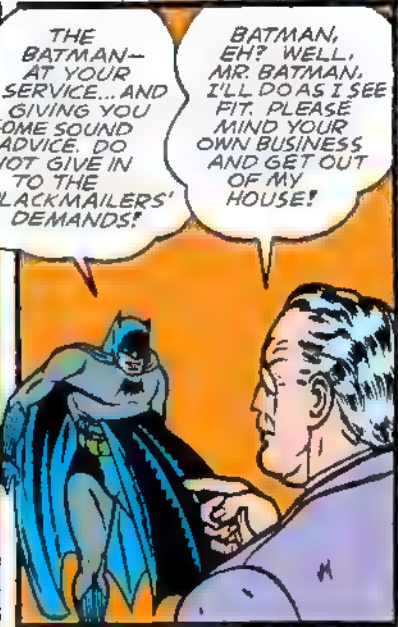
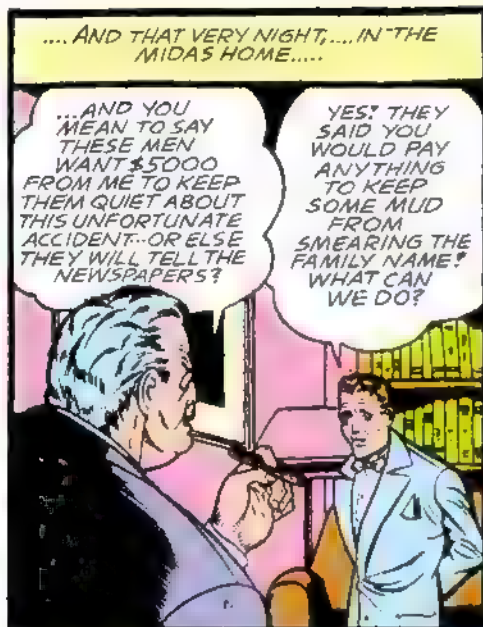
SURE! THAT WOULDN'T BE SO NICE FOR THE SON OF HARVEY MIDAS!

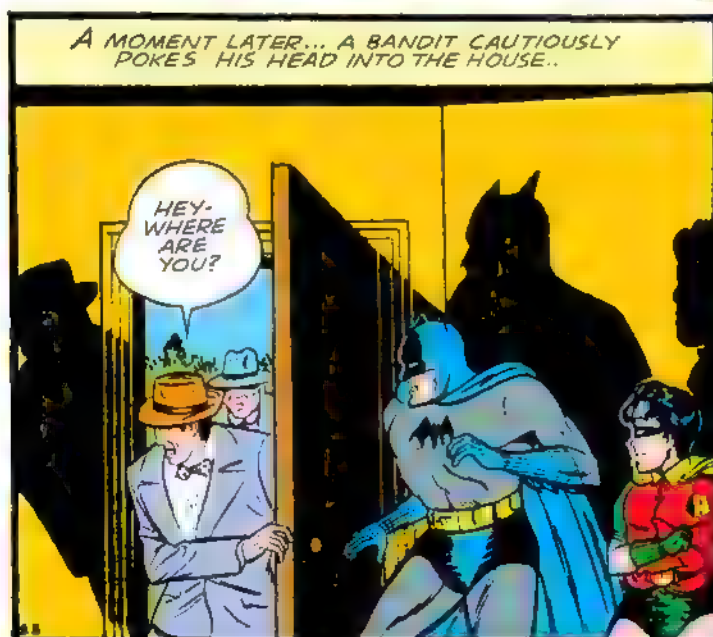
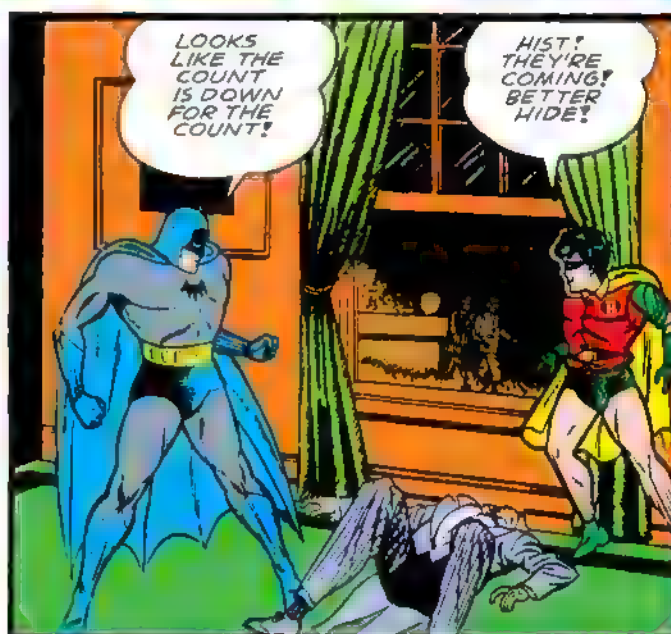
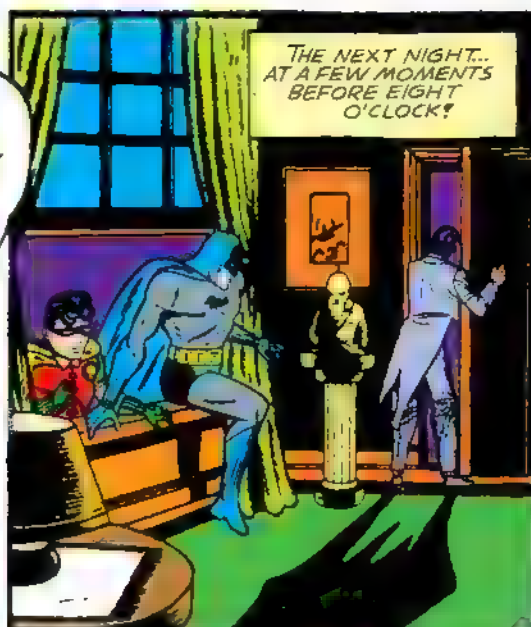
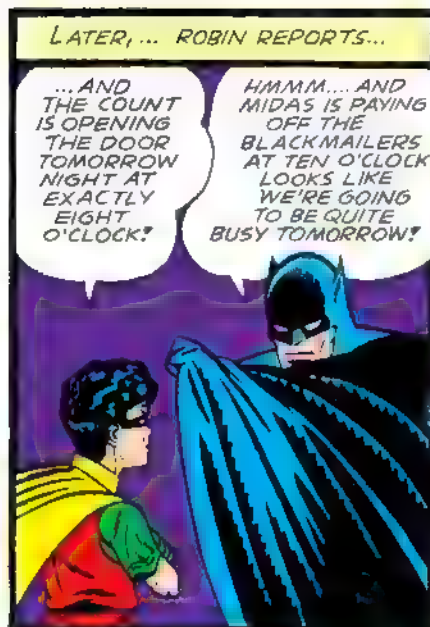
THE NEXT DAY SHOCKING NEWS HEADLINES THE PAPERS...

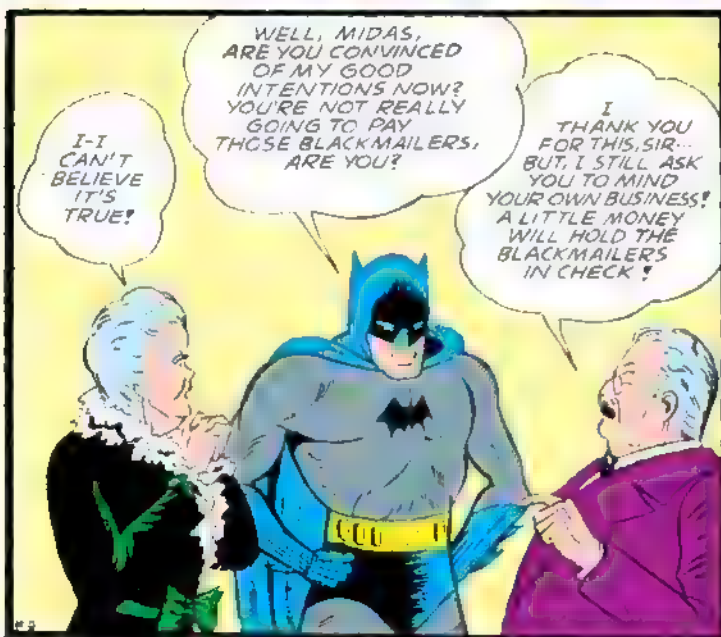
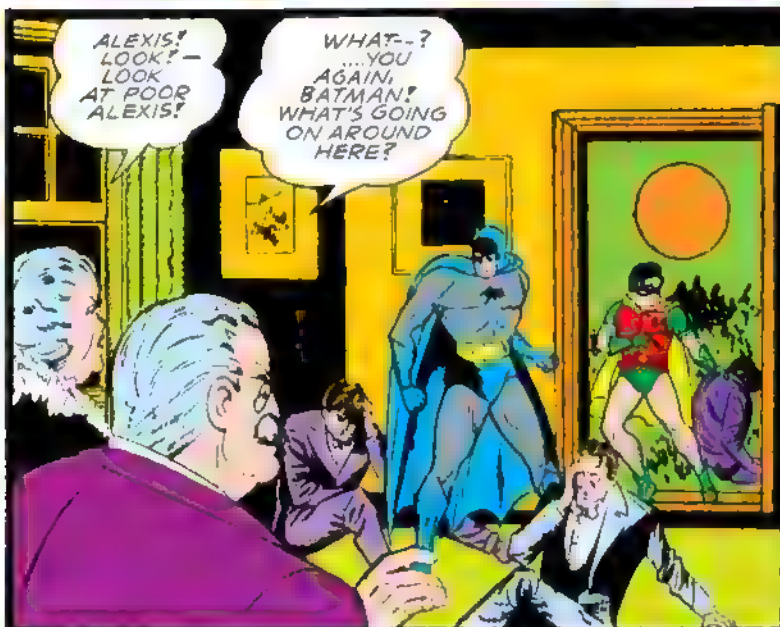
DAILY BUGLE

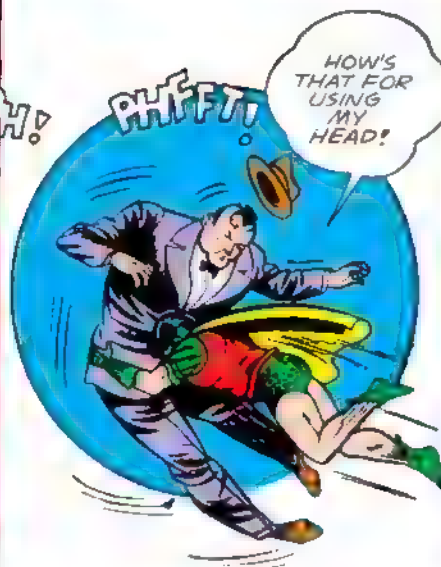
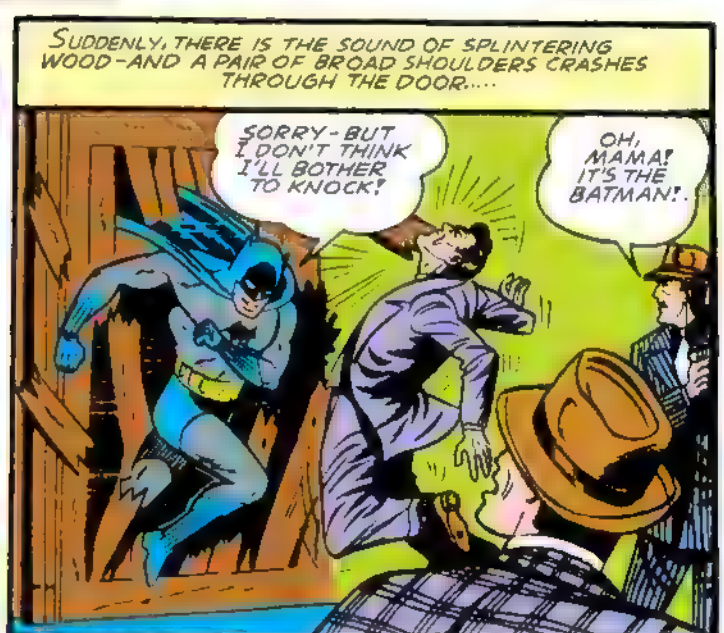
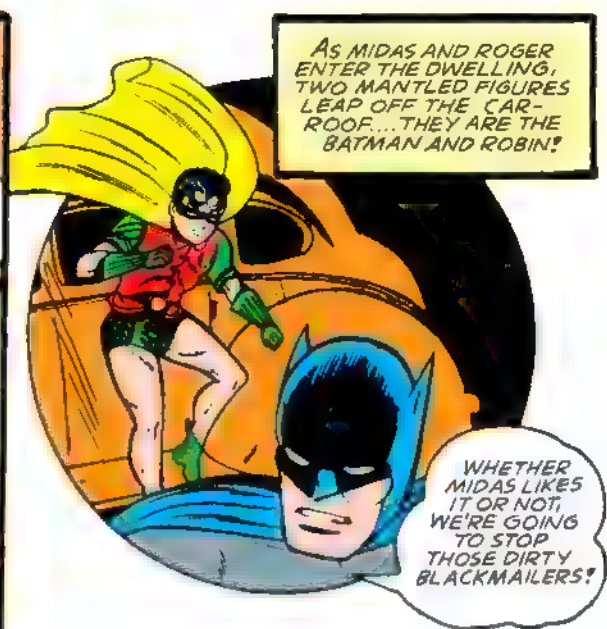
NEWSBOY CRIPPLED BY SPEEDING CAR
"HIT AND RUN" DRIVER SPEEDS FROM SCENE OF CRIME...

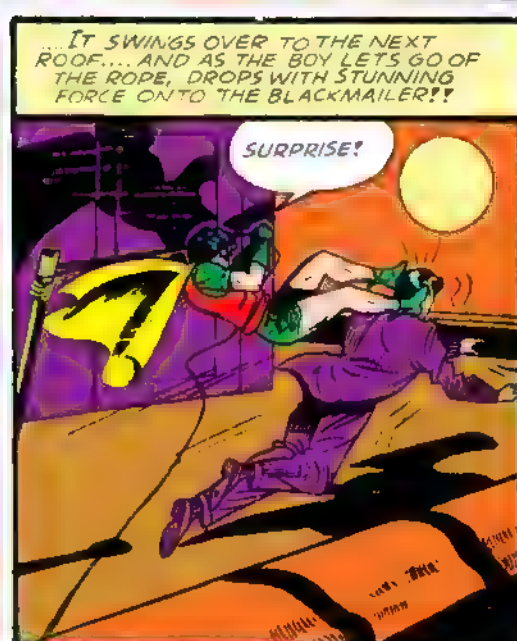
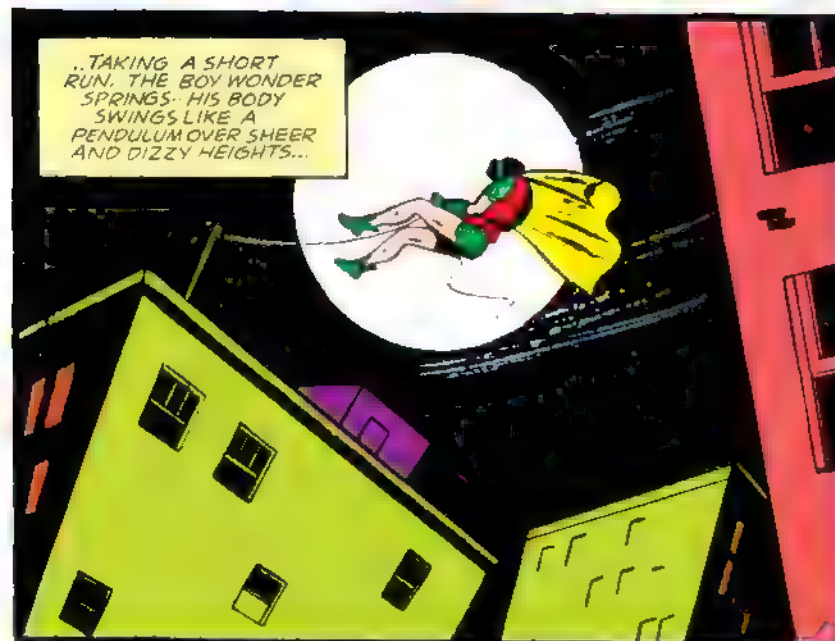
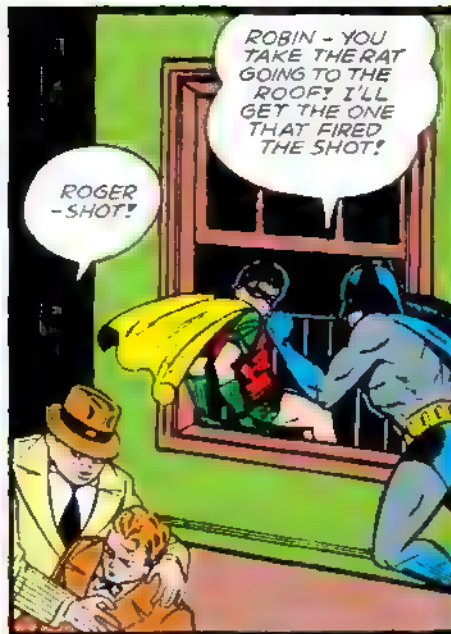
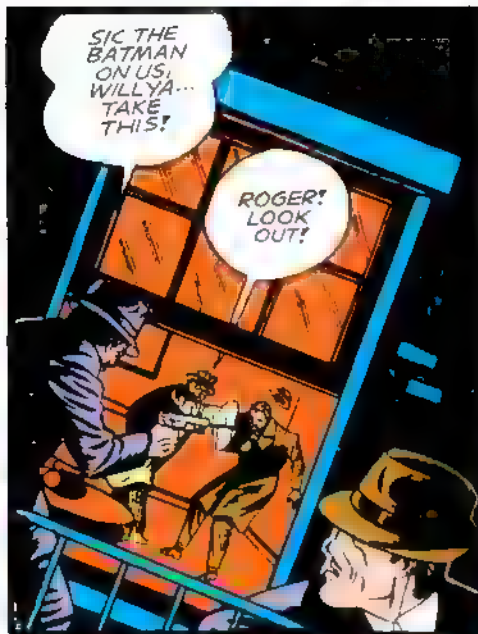
THE COWARDLY DRIVER OF THE CAR THAT CRIPPLED POOR DANNY MOORE, A NEWSBOY, OUGHT TO BE

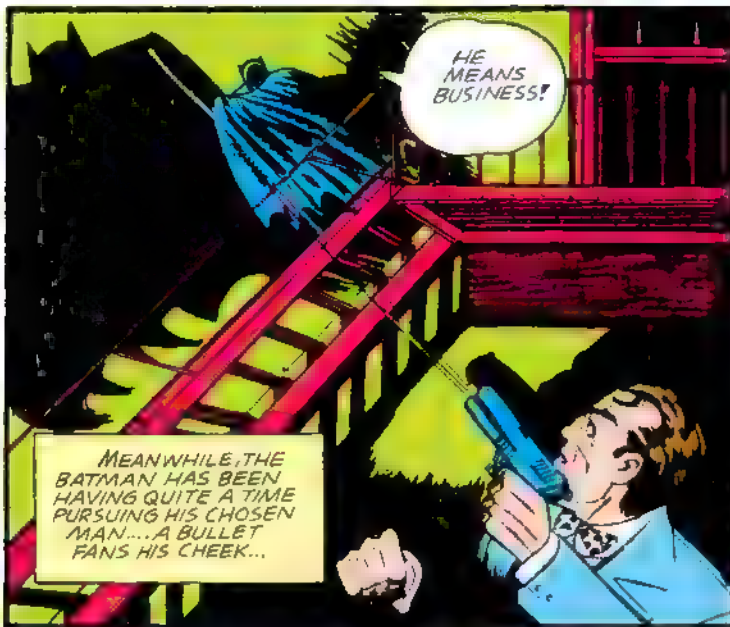








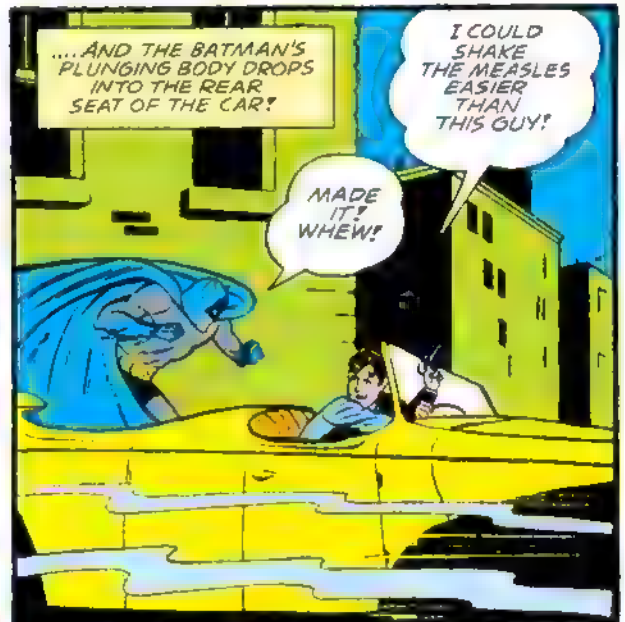




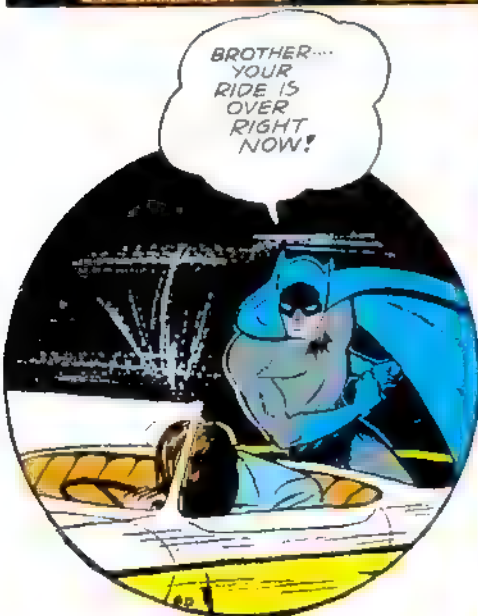
MEANWHILE, THE BATMAN HAS BEEN HAVING QUITE A TIME PURSUING HIS CHOSEN MAN.... A BULLET FANS HIS CHEEK...



AS THE MAN LEAPS INTO HIS OPEN CAR, THE BATMAN DECIDES TO STAKE ALL ON A RISKY TRY...

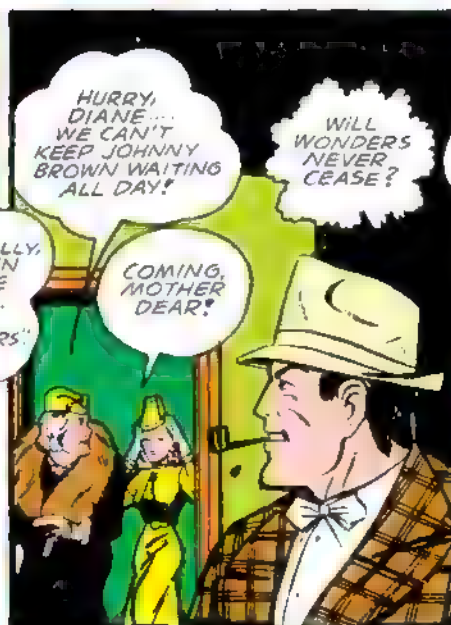
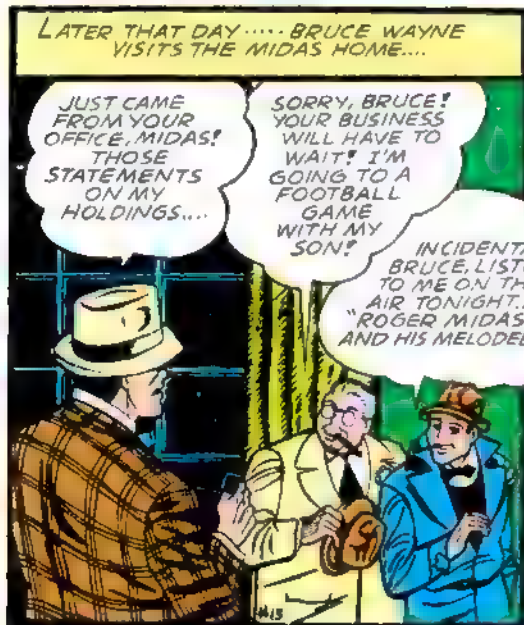
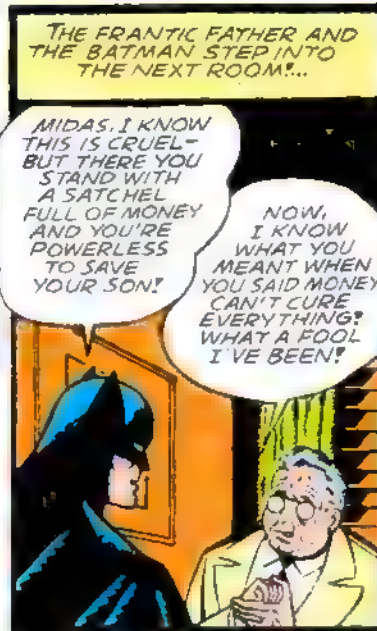
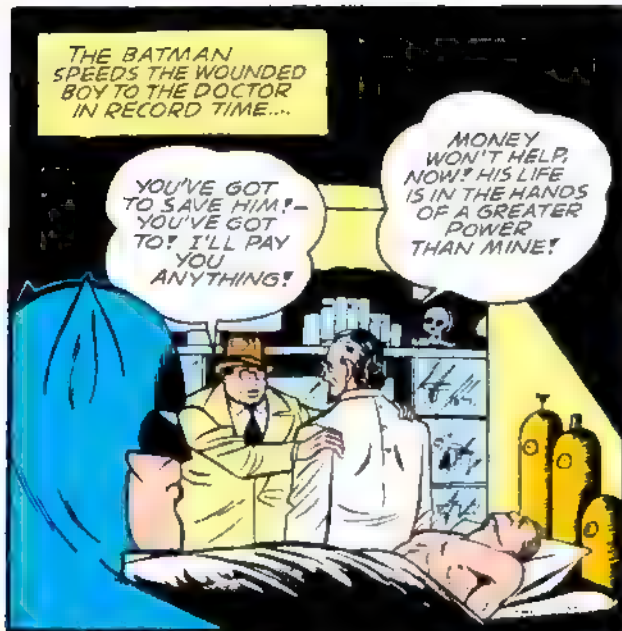


I COULD SHAKE THE MEASLES EASIER THAN THIS GUY!



WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

WH- WHAT ARE YOU DOING?



No. 4

WINTER ISSUE

BATMAN



MORE
WHIRLWIND
ADVENTURES
OF
BATMAN
AND
ROBIN



BATMAN

With

Robin
THE BOY WONDER

BY
BOB KANE

**THE BATMAN AND ROBIN
AMERICA'S FASTEST-GROWING
ADVENTURE TEAM**

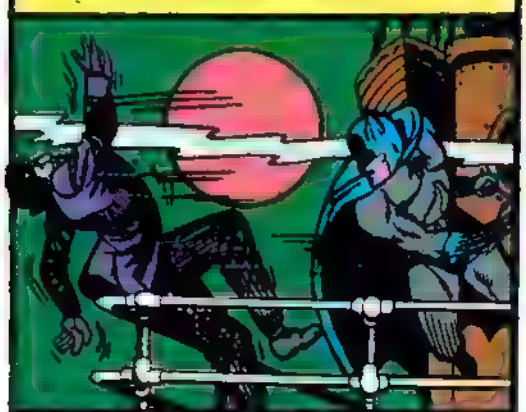
BATMAN

WITH
Robin
THE BOY WONDER



JUST AS THE BATMAN HAD EARNED HIS NAME FROM HIS GAD, SO DID ANOTHER FIGURE GAIN HIS.... A FIGURE SUGGESTING A GHOSTLY, DELIBERATE MOCKERY, LIKE DEATH TAUNTING LIFE... YOU MUST ALREADY KNOW WHO THIS GERM JESTER IS.... IT'S THAT KILLER-CLOWN, THAT MIRTHFUL MENACE KNOWN AS-
AND FATE-UNPREDICTABLE FATE-
WOULD SOON PUT THE BATMAN AND HIS YOUNG AIDE, ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER, ON A CHANCE TRAIL THAT WOULD CROSS THAT OF THE JOKER, AND START THE STRANGE MEDLEY OF EVENTS THAT MAKE FOR THE STORY CALLED.....
THE CASE OF THE JOKER'S CRIME CIRCUS!

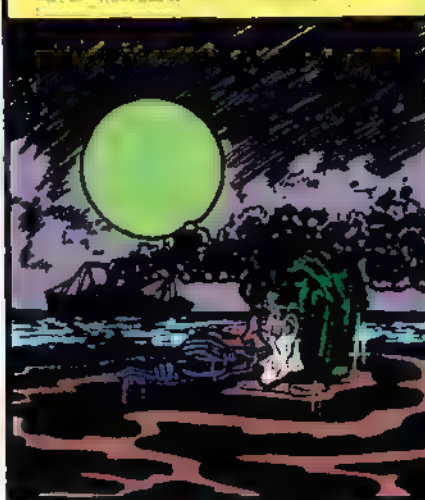
WHEN LAST THE BATMAN HAD CONFRONTED THE JOKER, HIS IRON FIST HAD SENT THE JOKER STAGGERING TO A SHIP'S RAILING.....



....THE JOKER PLUMMETED DOWN TO HIT THE WATERS AND REMAIN BELOW.....



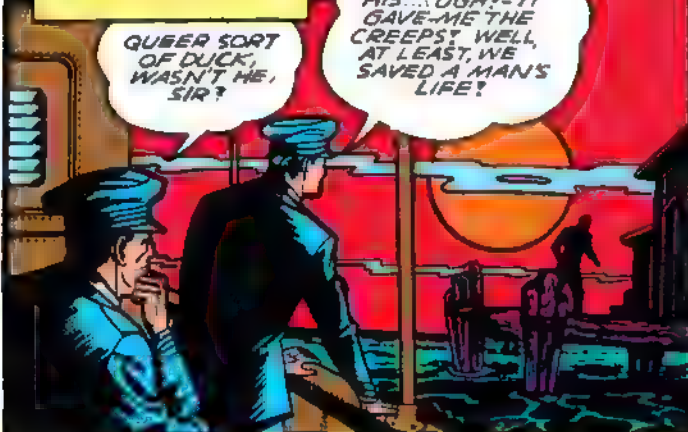
....AS THE LIGHTS OF THE SHIP TWINKLE LIKE FIREFLIES IN THE DISTANCE, A FIGURE RISES TO THE SURFACE OF THE WATER... IT IS THE JOKER!



....HOURS LATER, A YACHT MAKES OUT HIS BOBBING FORM..



....THE JOKER IS TAKEN ASHORE.....



PERHAPS HE WOULD NOT HAVE MADE THAT STATEMENT WITH SUCH THANKFULNESS HAD HE KNOWN WHO THAT MAN WAS?



UNOBSERVED, HE STEALS TO THE EDGE OF TOWN TO A SEEMINGLY DESERTED, GLOOMY OLD MANSION DUBBED BY THE PEOPLE AS "HAUNTED"....

BUT THE STRANGE-LOOKING MANSION IS NOT REALLY "HAUNTED" AND DESERTED.... IN REALITY, IT IS THE HIDDEN SANCTUM OF THE JOKER...



....THEN, THE JOKER LAUGHS A WILD, JEERING LAUGH THAT MAKES THE VERY SILENCE OF THE ROOM CRAWL WITH MENACE.



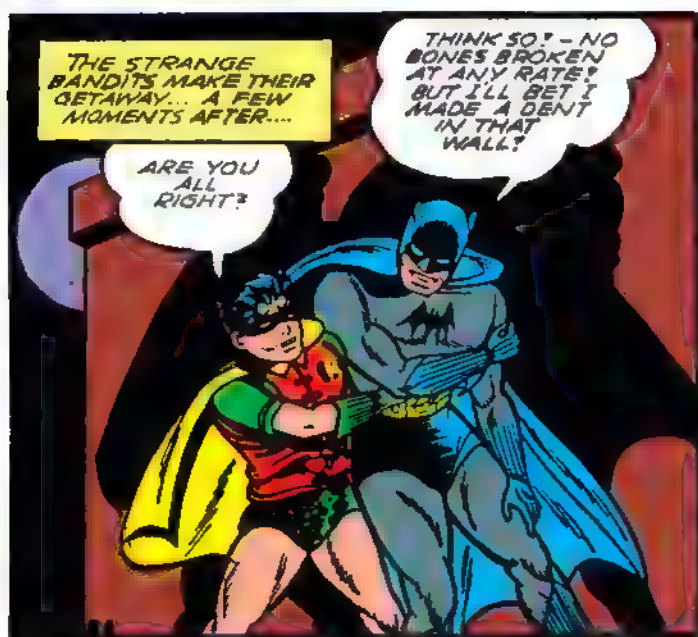
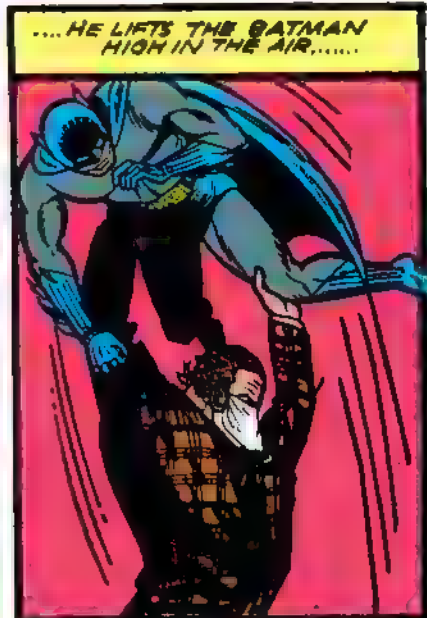
THE CLEVEREST AND THE MOST DANGEROUS CRIMINAL IN THE ANNALS OF CRIME WAS STILL AT LIBERTY!

THE BATMAN THINKS I'M DEAD. HE'LL KNOW DIFFERENTLY WHEN WE MEET AGAIN! ... AND WE SHALL MEET AGAIN!



THE TIME WAS CLOSE WHEN NEW FACTORS WOULD BRING ABOUT AN ACTUAL DUEL BETWEEN THE BATMAN AND THE JOKER!

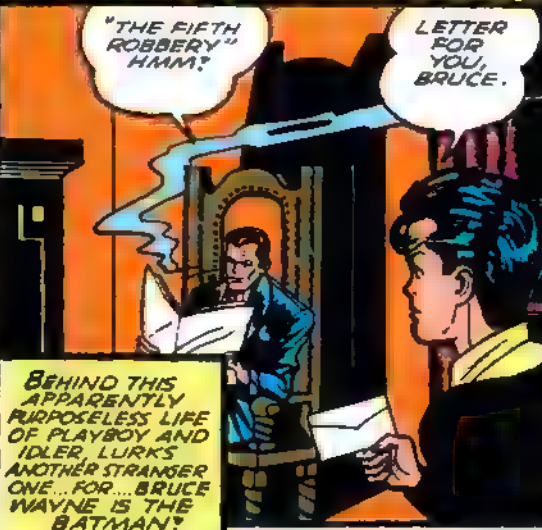




A WEEK LATER, ANOTHER RICH HOME IS ROBBED...

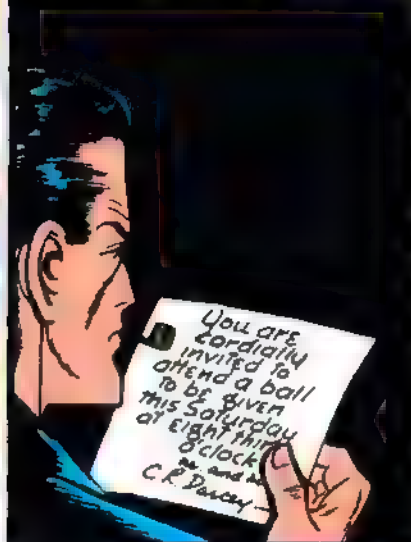
GOOTHAM CITY GAZETTE
VAN PLATT HOM
ROBBED.....
FIFTH RICH HOME LOOTED
IN LATEST ROBBERY
EPIDEMIC
 THOSE MYSTERIOUS
 BURGLARS, WHO
 HAVE BEEN STRIKING
 AT THE SOCIETY
 RICH THIS PAST
 MONTH, BRAZENLY
 ENTERED THE
 VAN PLATT MANSION
 LAST NIGHT, AND

.....IN HIS HOME, BRUCE WAYNE
 WEALTHY SCION OF SOCIETY, SCANS THE
 NEWS WITH UNUSUAL INTEREST.....



BEHIND THIS
 APPARENTLY
 PURPOSELESS LIFE
 OF PLAYBOY AND
 IDLER, LURKS
 ANOTHER STRANGER
 ONE...FOR...BRUCE
 WAYNE IS THE
 BATMAN!

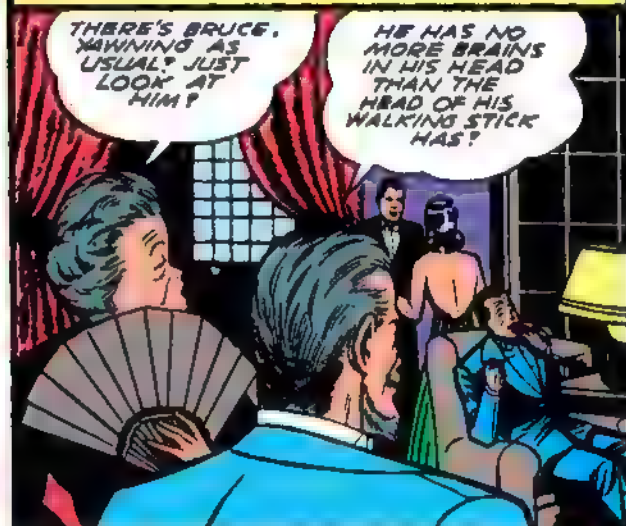
THE LETTER.....



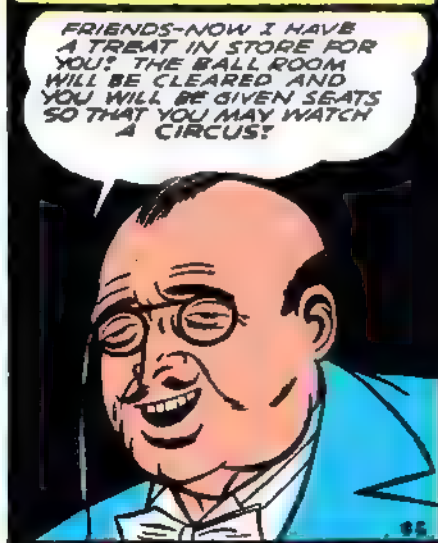
ACCORDINGLY...THAT
 SATURDAY
 NIGHT.....



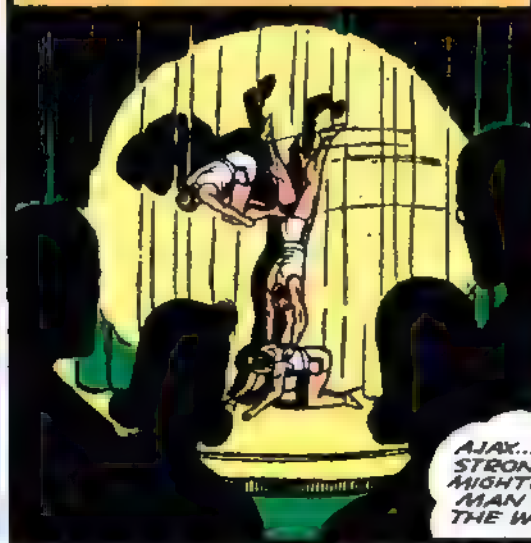
BRUCE SEEMS TO GO OUT OF HIS WAY TO
 PROVE HE IS THE NO. 3. CANDIDATE FOR THE
 "IDLE RICH, BORED WITH LIFE -CLUB"....



...SUDDENLY, THERE IS A ROLL ON
 THE DRUMS, AND DARCEY
 ADDRESSES HIS GUESTS..

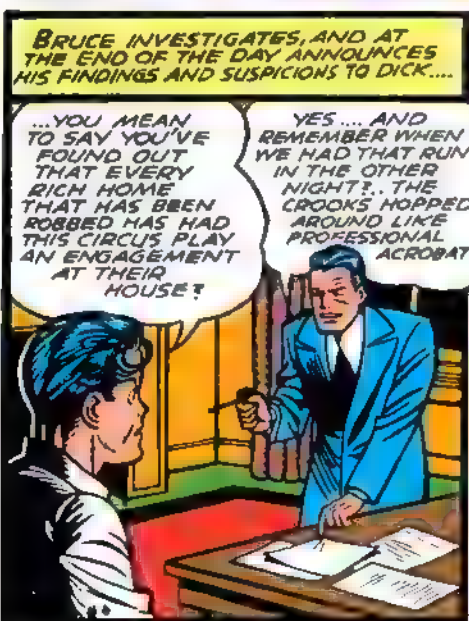
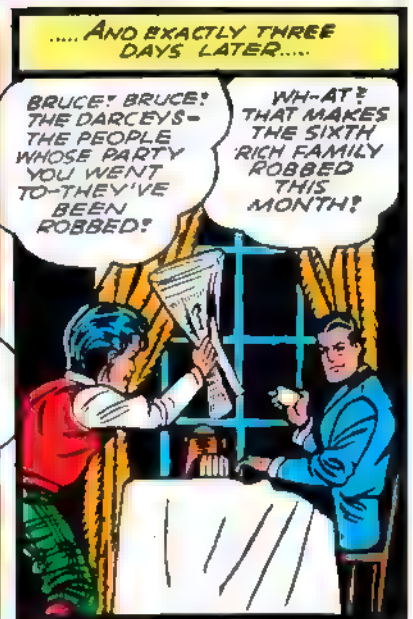
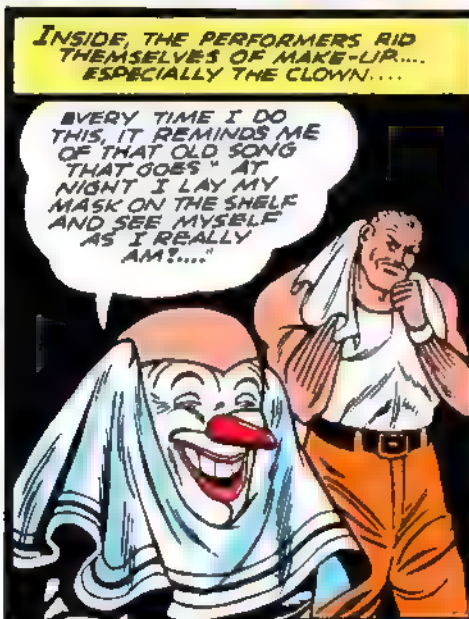
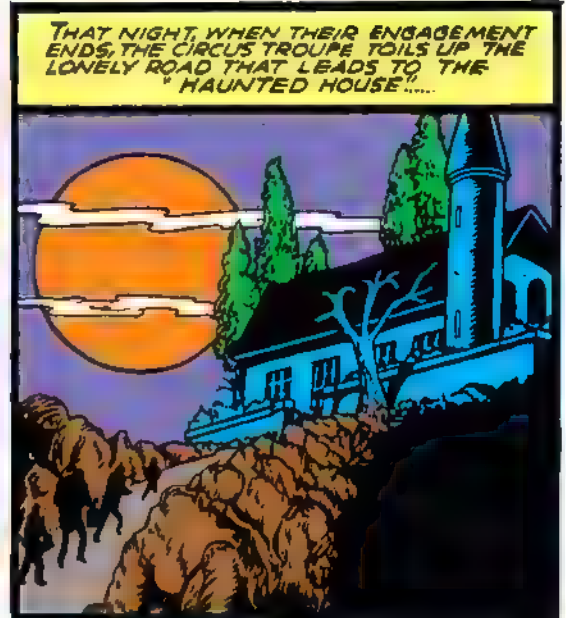
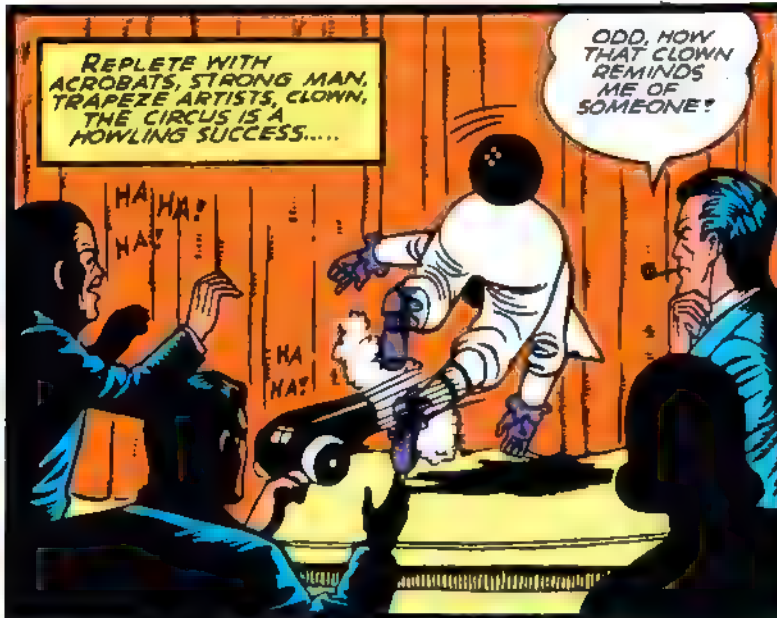


....A MINATURE CIRCUS SHOW IS PUT
 ON IN THE BALLROOM... A CROBATS
 PERFORM



A STRONG MAN BENDS
 IRON BARS AND LIFTS
 TREMENDOUS WEIGHTS...





THAT NIGHT.....IN THE "HAUNTED HOUSE."
.....THE LAIR OF THE JOKER.....

TONIGHT, WE PLAY THE MORGANBILT HOME. LOOK THE PLACE OVER. FIND OUT WHERE THEY HAVE THEIR SAFE HIDDEN. WORK FAST!

THIS IS TIMO. HE HAS JUST JOINED UP WITH US. HE'LL BE OUR SURPRISE GUEST TONIGHT? NOW LET'S GO!

SO WAS THE STAGE SET, WITH THE BATMAN, ROBIN AND THE JOKER TO BE THE PRINCIPAL PLAYERS?

EVENING, AT THE MORGANBILT HOME.....THE JOKER'S CRIME CIRCUS HOLDS THE CENTER OF INTEREST.....

THE HARLEQUIN OF HATE STEPS FORWARD.....

.....AND NOW WE HAVE A SURPRISE FOR YOU. WE PRESENT....

RA TA TA-TA!

AND AS IF ON CUE, THE DYNAMIC DUO LEAPS INTO THE ROOM.....

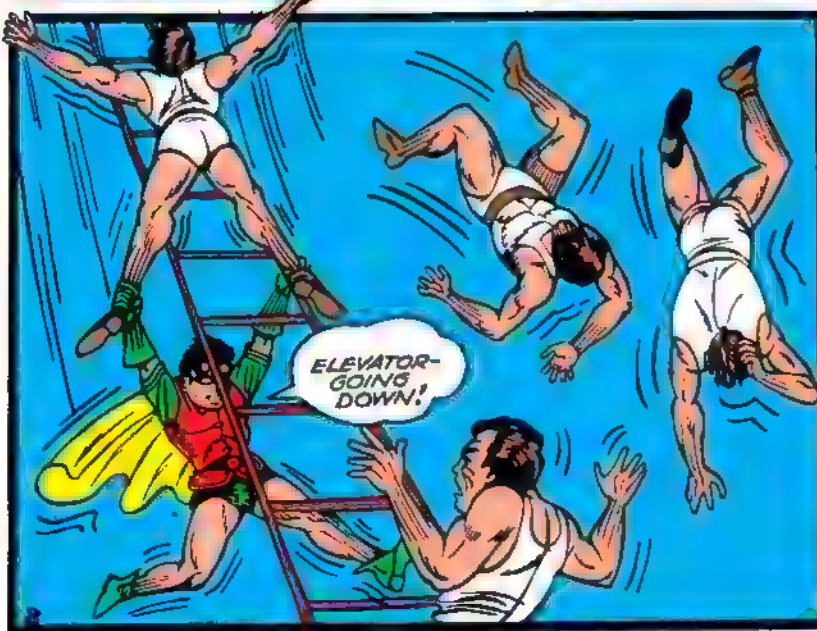
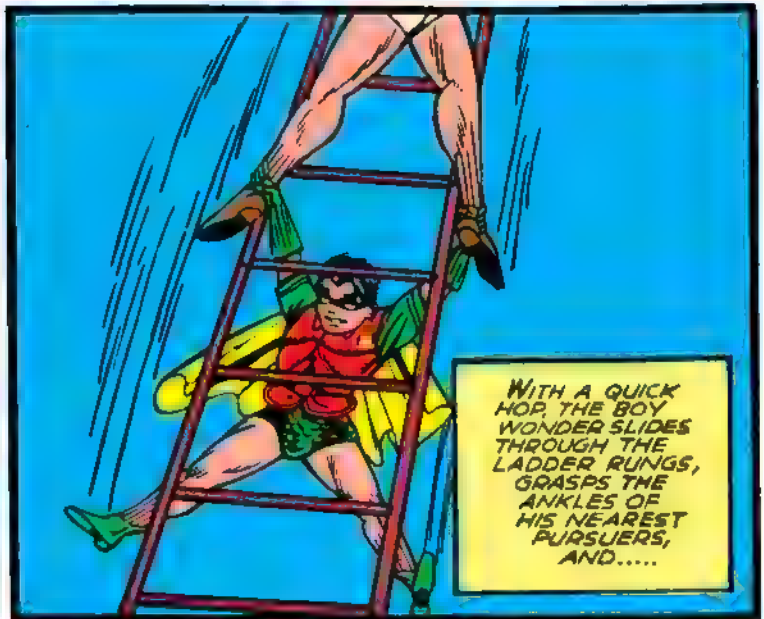
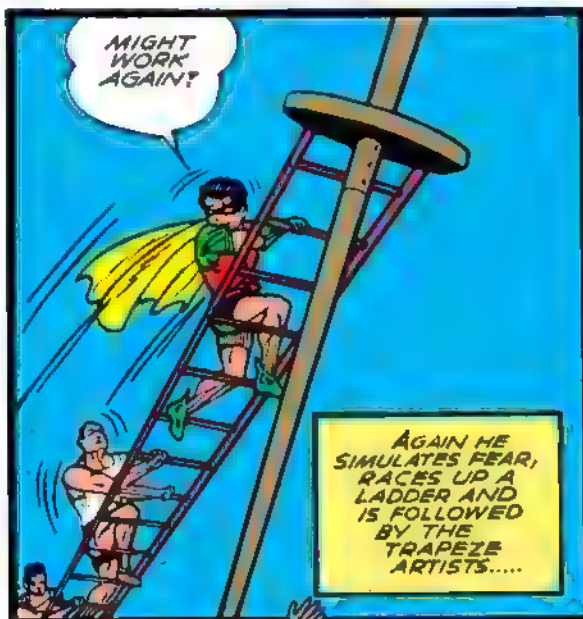
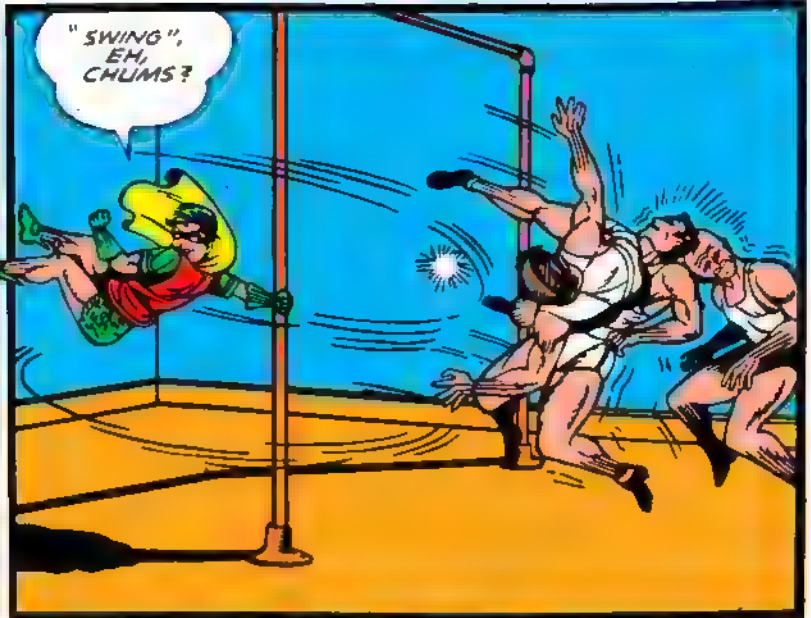
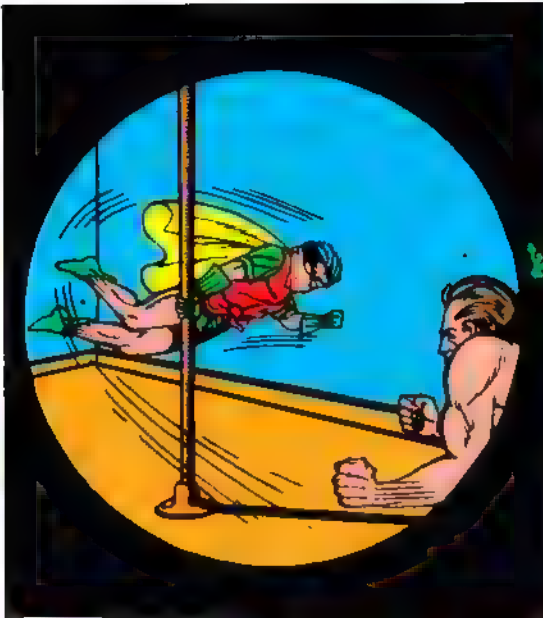
FANFARE, PLEASE?

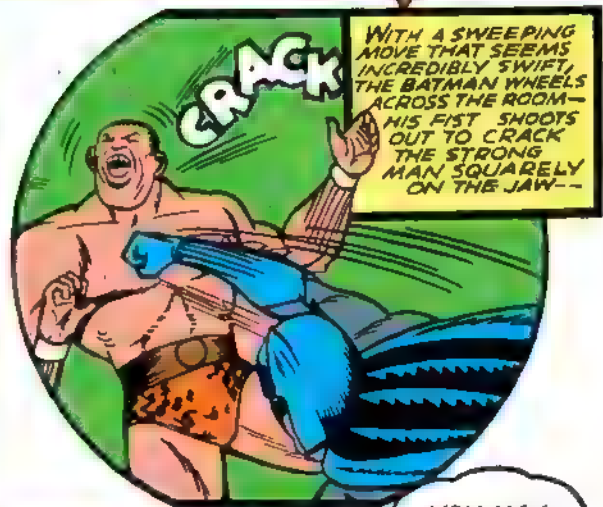
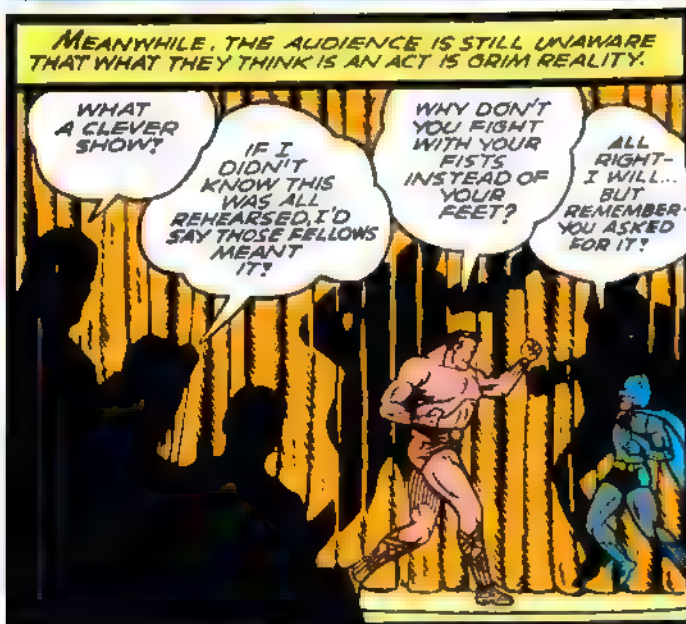
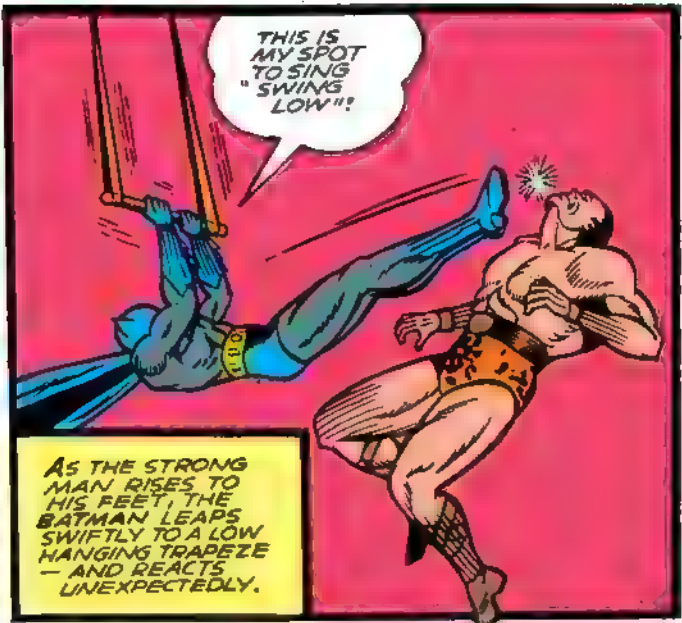
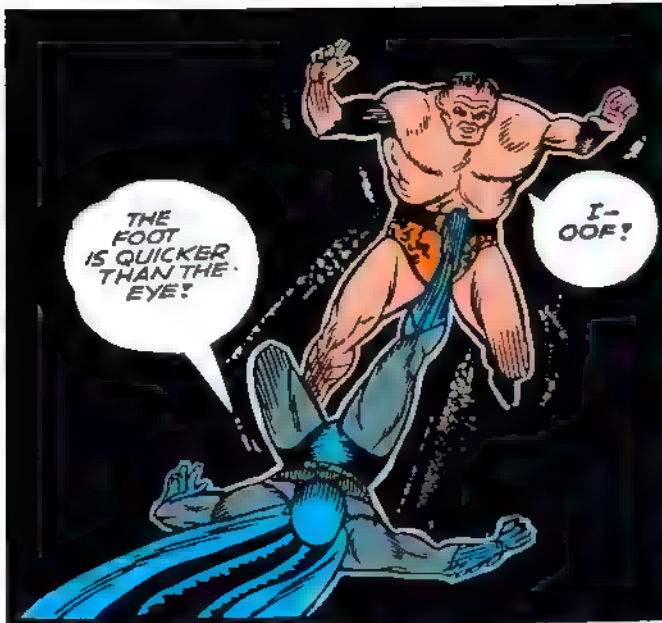
AND ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER?

LOOK? THE BATMAN!

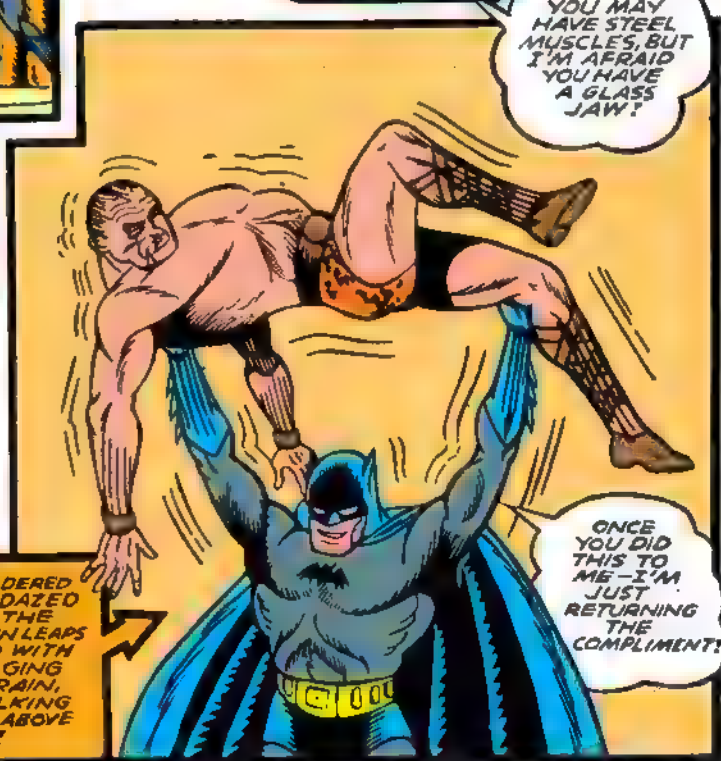
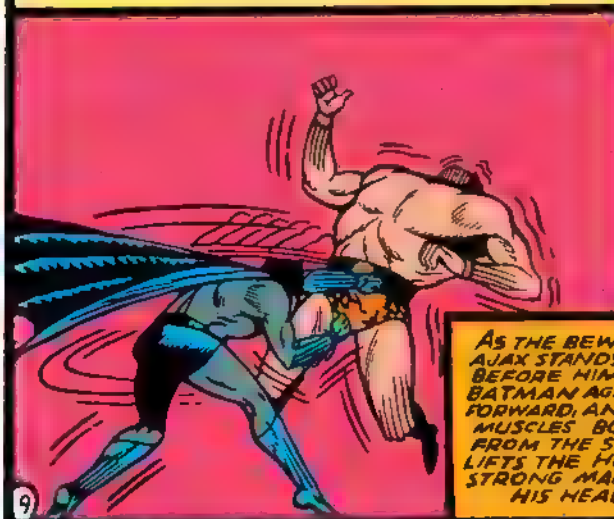
LOOK? THEY'RE PUTTING ON AN ACT?

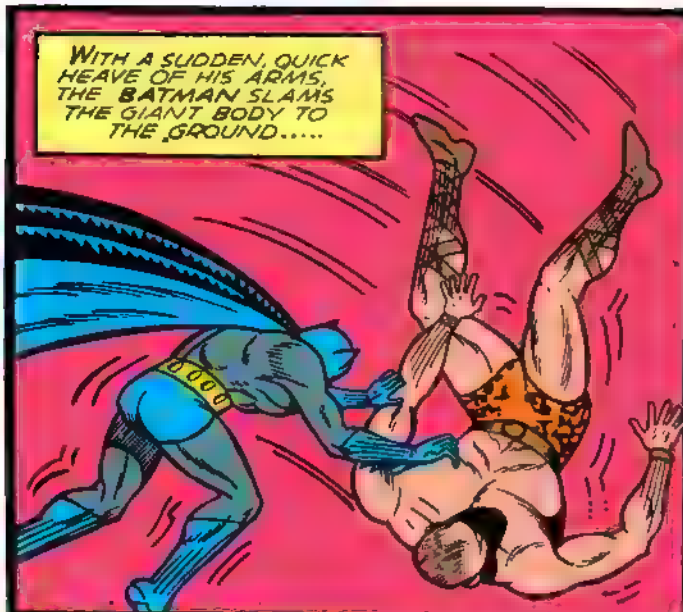
MAKING BELIEVE HE IS AFRAID, THE BOY WONDER RACES AWAY, FOLLOWED BY THE ACROBATS, AND....



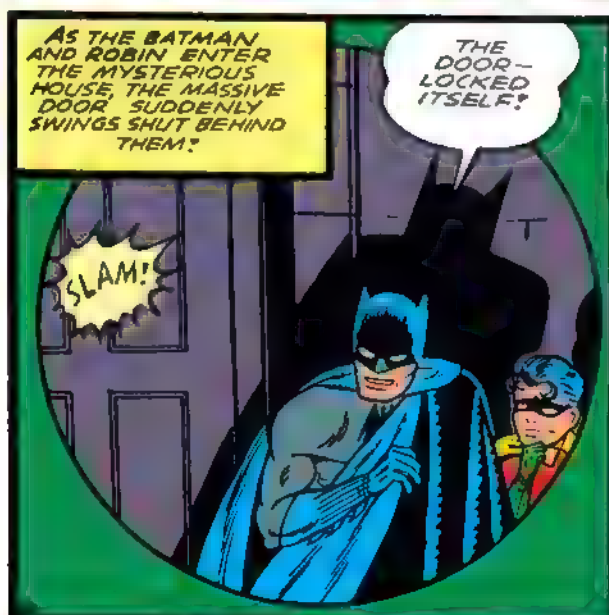
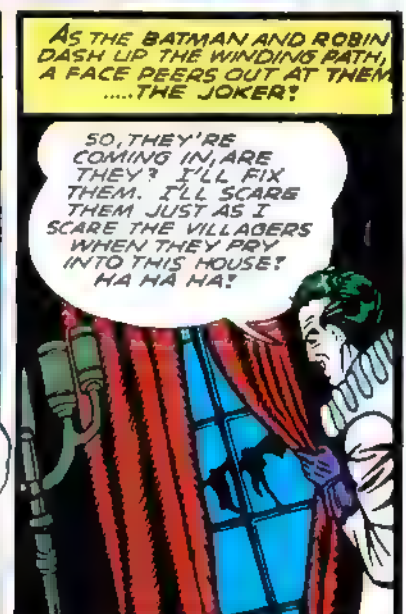
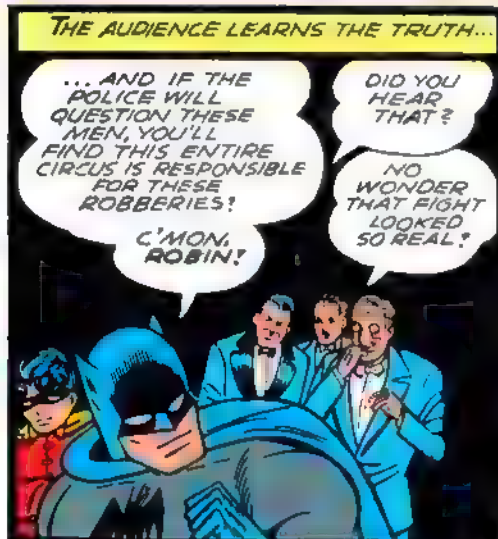


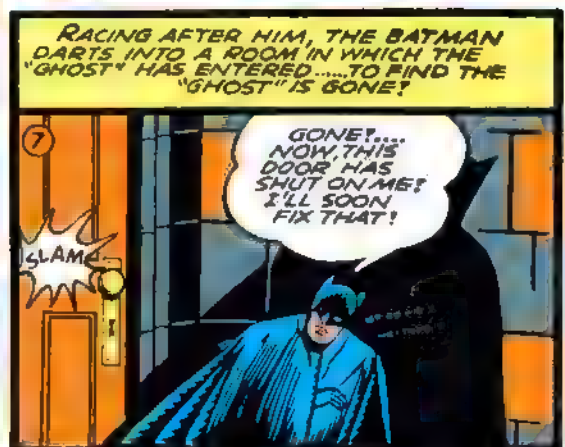
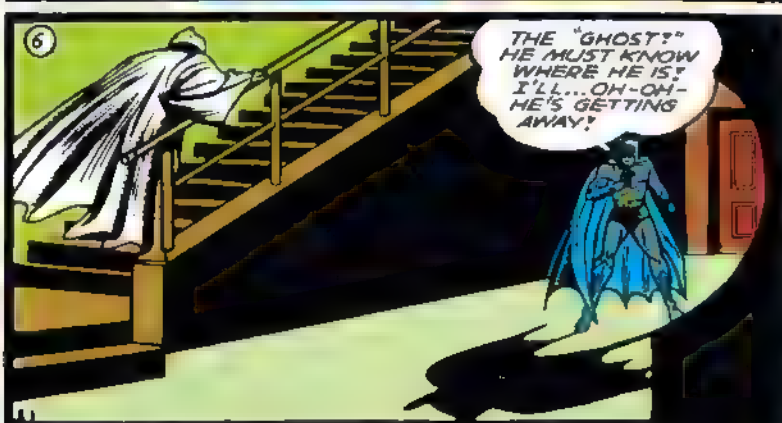
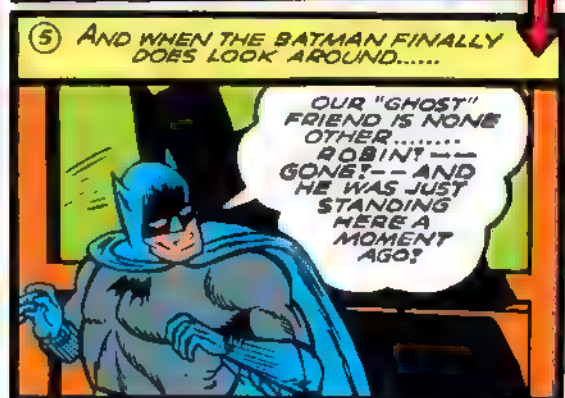
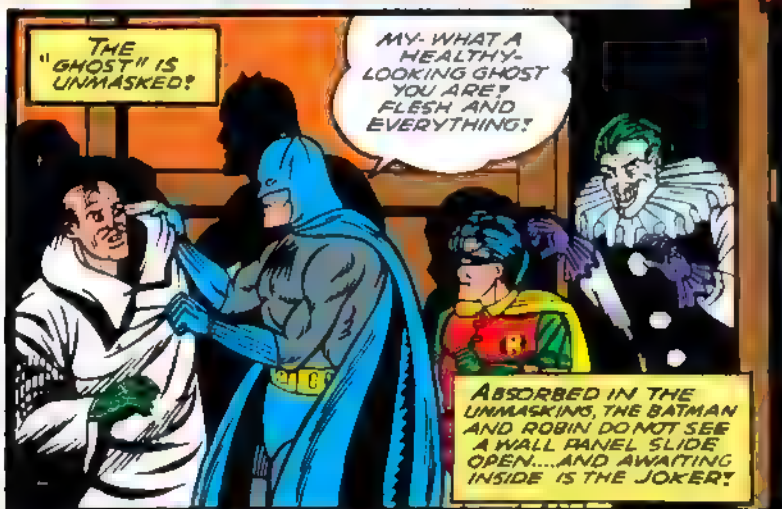
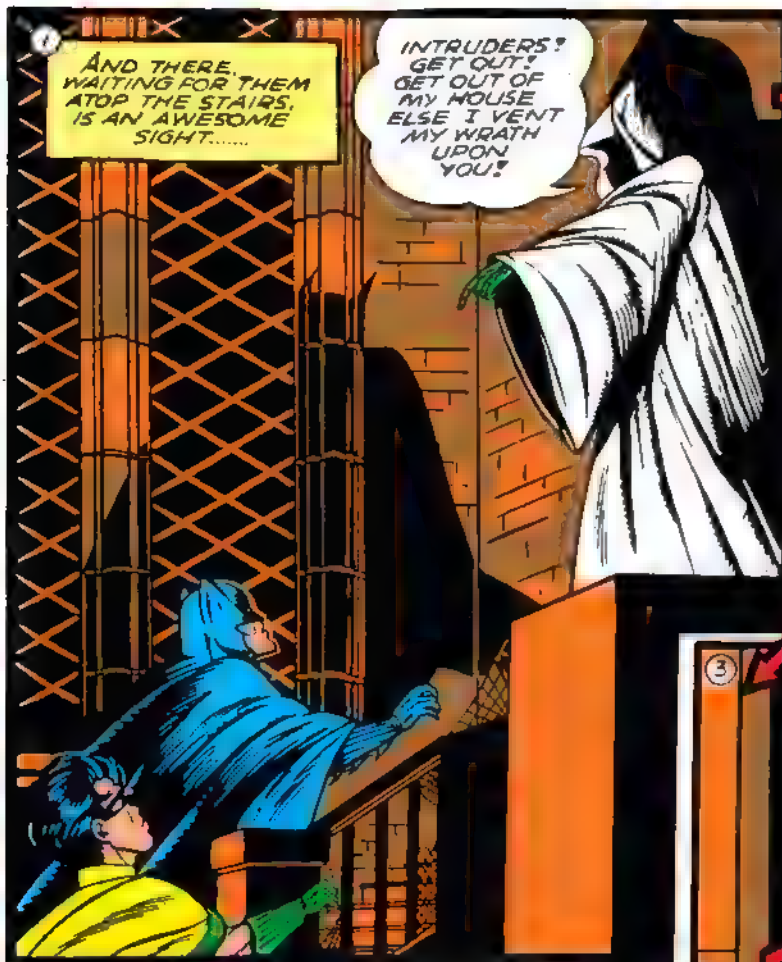
MOVING WITH LITHE, EASY GRACE BEFORE THE HEAVY-FOOTED STRONG MAN, THE BATMAN SENDS HIS ARMS WHIRLING LIKE BLADES OF A WINDMILL.....





ONCE AGAIN, THE DARK KNIGHT HAS GIVEN PROOF OF THE OLD ADAGE.... BRUTE STRENGTH CANNOT AVAIL AGAINST A QUICK MIND AND A QUICK BODY





.....THE BATMAN SLAMS HIS POWERFUL FRAME AT THE DOOR AGAIN AND AGAIN..... BUT IT DOES NOT EVEN BUDGE?

THIS DOOR -IT MUST BE STEEL, PAINTED TO LOOK LIKE WOOD? IT WON'T GIVE AN INCH?

SUDDENLY, THE LIGHTS GO OUT AND A SMALL LUMINOUS FACE GLOWS IN THE DARKNESS.... A WHISPERED LAUGH FILTERS THROUGH THE ROOM.....

NOW WHAT?

THE HEAD, HANGING DISEMBODIED IN THE DARKNESS, GROWS LARGER.... THE SNEERING LAUGH GROWS LOUDER.....

HA HA HA HA HA

JOKER!

LARGER, LARGER SWELLS THE EERIE, MISTY FACE, UNTIL IT SEEMS TO FILL THE VERY ROOM....THE MAD LAUGHTER GROWS LOUDER, LOUDER....IT THUNDERS, POUNDS AT THE BATMAN'S EARDRUMS.....

HA HA HA HA HA

WITH STARTLING SUDDENNESS THE BATMAN WHIRLS AND LEAPS AT THE WALL BEHIND HIM.....

HE TEARS DOWN AN OBJECT FASTENED TO THE WALL....

I THOUGHT SO..... A MOTION PICTURE PROJECTOR THAT THREW THE IMAGE OF THE JOKER'S FACE ON THE WALL.... AND THERE MUST BE MICROPHONES HIDDEN ABOUT TO SEND OUT THAT LAUGH?

THEN, A VOICE....A SINISTER, MOCKING VOICE....THE VOICE OF THE JOKER?

QUITE RIGHT, BATMAN! AND NOW LISTEN, BATMAN- LISTEN FOR THE HISS OF GAS! IT MARKS YOUR END... YOUR END?... HA-HA-HA...

GAS! I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!

THE BATMAN TAKES TWO PARTICULAR VIALS FROM HIS UTILITY BELT....

PLACING THE CONTENTS OF ONE VIAL INTO THE OTHER, HE THROWS THE PELLET AT THE WALL...THERE IS A SHATTERING BLAST!...



THE BATMAN DARTS THROUGH THE RENT IN THE WALL TO SEE.....THE JOKER AND ROBIN?



CRIME-SMASHER AND ARCH-CRIMINAL MEET IN COMBAT?



I'LL MAKE SURE YOU DIE THIS TIME!

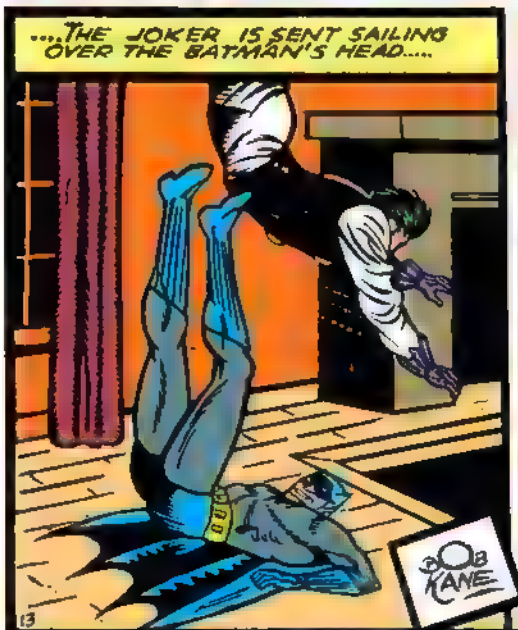


FIGHTING WITH MANIACAL FURY, THE JOKER UNLEASHES A BLOW THAT STUNS EVEN THE MIGHTY BATMAN....

AS THE JOKER LEAPS FORWARD, THE BATMAN THRUSTS UP HIS FEET IN A LIGHTNING MOVE....



...THE JOKER IS SENT SAILING OVER THE BATMAN'S HEAD....

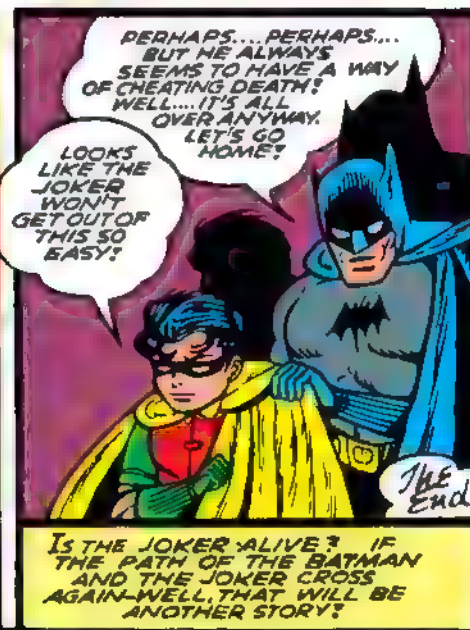


...AND DROPS INTO THE OPEN TRAP-DOOR.... DOWN... DOWN GOES THE JOKER, TO PLUNGE DEEP INTO THE SEWAGE WATERS RUNNING BENEATH THE MANSION!



PERHAPS... PERHAPS... BUT HE ALWAYS SEEMS TO HAVE A WAY OF CHEATING DEATH! WELL...IT'S ALL OVER ANYWAY. LET'S GO HOME!

LOOKS LIKE THE JOKER WON'T GET OUT OF THIS SO EASY!



BATMAN

WITH
Robin
-THE BOY WONDER-

THIS IS A STORY OF BOLD
PIRATES AND THE BATMAN AND
ROBIN. IMPOSSIBLE, YOU SAY...
BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE OF
THE PRESENT... PIRATES ARE
OF THE PAST! YET HERE
IT IS - A STORY OF
FLASHING STEEL, SAVAGE
FIGHTING, SWASHBUCKLING
PIRATES, BUCCANEERS MET
BY THE DYNAMIC
FISTS OF THE THUNDERING
DUO... HERE IT IS, ALL
CONTAINED IN THE
STRANGE TALE CALLED
"BLACKBEARD'S CREW
AND THE YACHT SOCIETY"



THE CLASH OF STEEL UPON STEEL IS
HEARD IN THE BRUCE WAYNE
HOME.....





SAY WHAT'S THE GOOD OF OUR KNOWING HOW TO FENCE? WE DON'T USE FOILS TO FIGHT WITH TODAY!

TRUE, BUT FENCING TEACHES YOU QUICKNESS OF MOVEMENT... AND BESIDES, IN OUR BUSINESS, IT HELPS TO KNOW THE USE OF ALL WEAPONS!

THE BUSINESS OF BRUCE WAYNE AND YOUNG DICK GRAYSON?... FIGHTING CRIME? - FOR THEY ARE IN REALITY... THE BATMAN AND ROBIN THE BOY WONDER

AT THAT MOMENT, EVENTS ARE SHAPING SO THE BATMAN AND ROBIN WILL ACTUALLY ENGAGE IN A DUEL... A DUEL OF JUSTICE AGAINST CRIME!



COME ALONG, STANLEY! STOP LAGGING BEHIND! I HAVE SOME LETTERS TO DICTATE!... HURRY, CAN'T YOU?

Y-YES, SIR?

ON A NEARBY PIER, PEOPLE BOARD A WAITING YACHT... A CERTAIN MR. HORN WITH HIS SECRETARY, STANLEY.....

A YOUNG, LOVELY GIRL, WITH HER TWO ARDENT ADMIRERS....

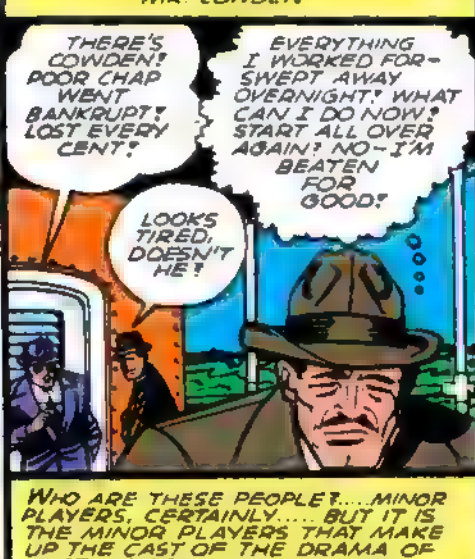


WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO BREAK DOWN AND MARRY ME ELAINE?

BOYS... HOW CAN I MARRY EITHER ONE OF YOU WHEN I DON'T KNOW WHICH ONE OF YOU I LOVE THE MOST?

FORGET HIM... HOW ABOUT ME?

ALSO BOARDING THE YACHT IS A MR. COWDEN

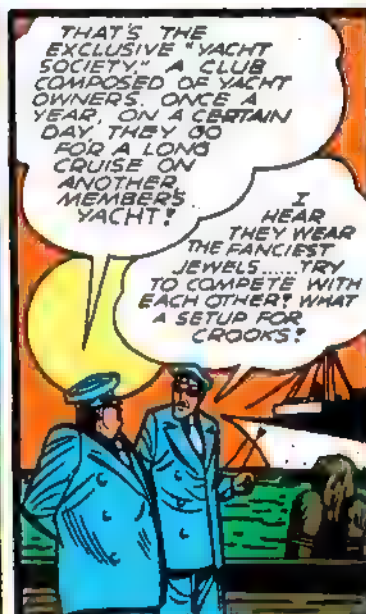


THERE'S COWDEN? POOR CHAP WENT BANKRUPT! LOST EVERY CENT!

EVERYTHING I WORKED FOR... SWEEP AWAY OVERNIGHT! WHAT CAN I DO NOW? START ALL OVER AGAIN? NO - I'M BEATEN FOR GOOD!

LOOKS TIRED, DOESN'T HE?

WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?... MINOR PLAYERS, CERTAINLY... BUT IT IS THE MINOR PLAYERS THAT MAKE UP THE CAST OF THE DRAMA OF LIFE... FOR THEY ARE LIFE!



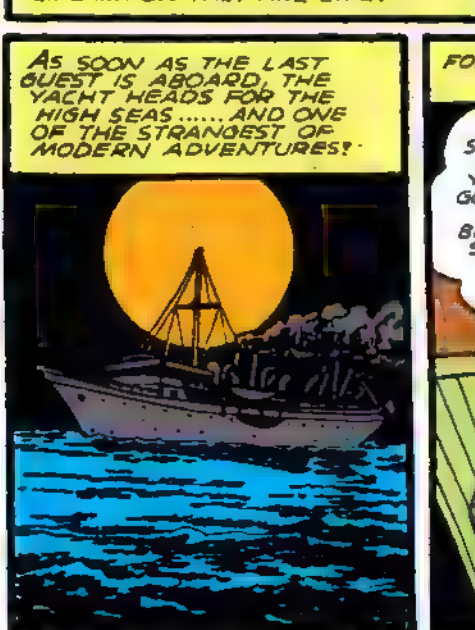
THAT'S THE EXCLUSIVE "YACHT SOCIETY," A CLUB COMPOSED OF YACHT OWNERS. ONCE A YEAR, ON A CERTAIN DAY THEY GO FOR A LONG CRUISE ON ANOTHER MEMBER'S YACHT!

I HEAR THEY WEAR THE FANCIEST JEWELS... TRY TO COMPETE WITH EACH OTHER! WHAT A SETUP FOR CROOKS?



THEY'RE SAFE ENOUGH OUT AT SEA? ALL THEY HAVE TO WATCH OUT FOR ARE BUCCANEERS, PIRATES, HAW!

YEAH?... PIRATES IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY? SHADES OF CAPTAIN KIDD? HAW HAW!



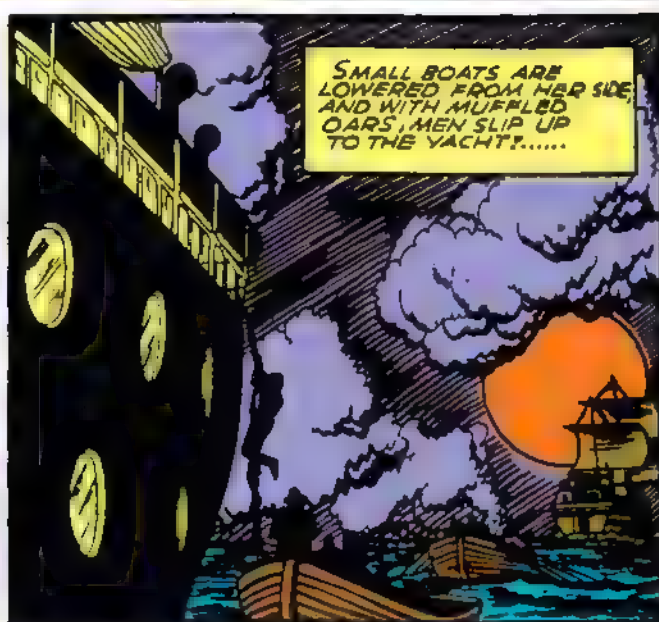
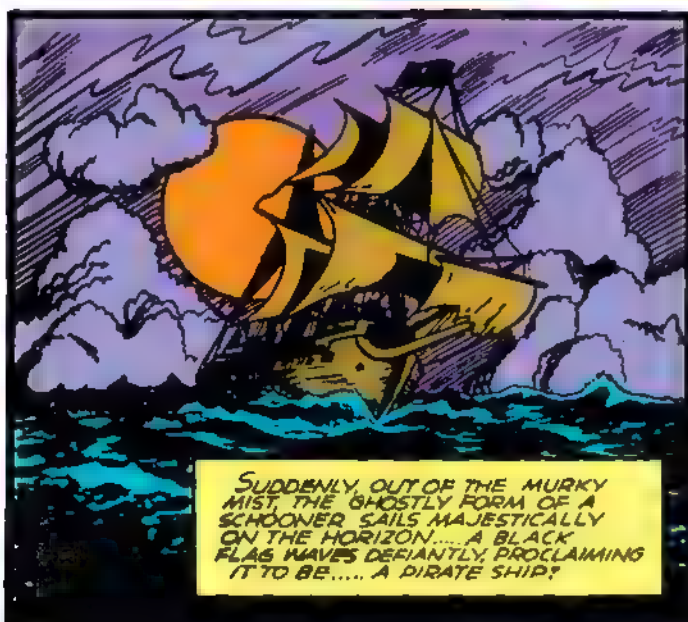
AS SOON AS THE LAST GUEST IS ABOARD, THE YACHT HEADS FOR THE HIGH SEAS... AND ONE OF THE STRANGEST OF MODERN ADVENTURES!

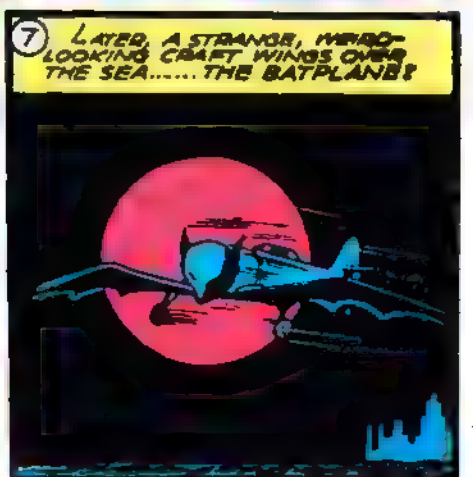
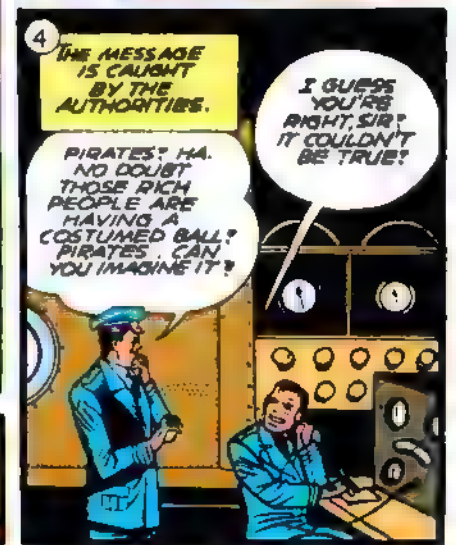
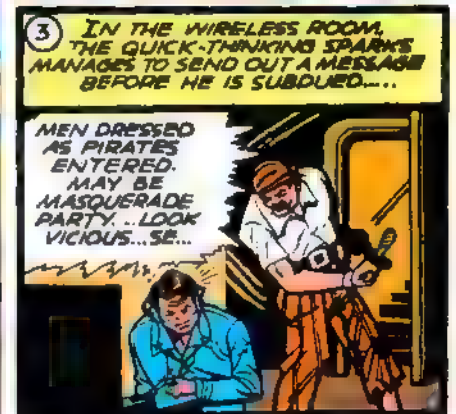


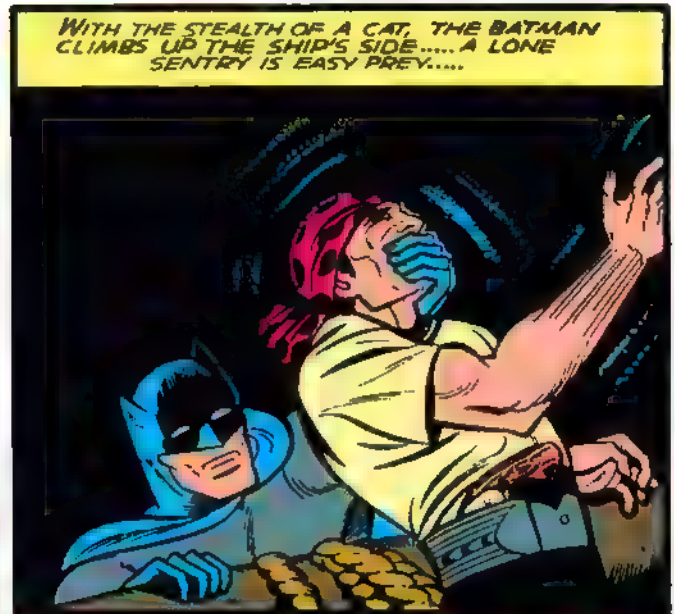
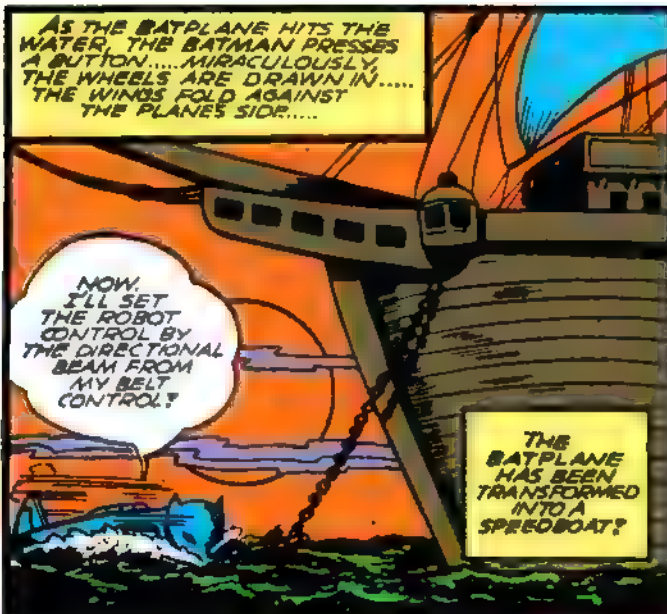
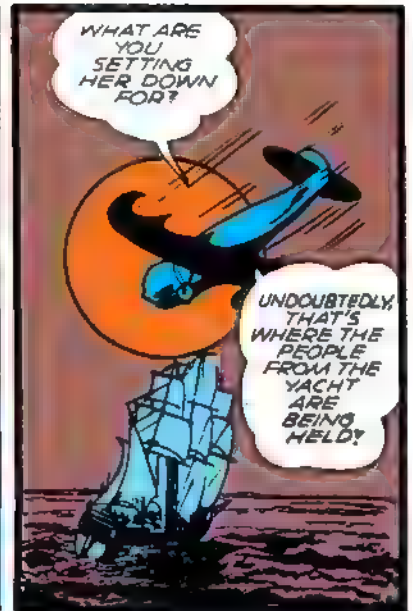
IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW, THE GUESTS LEAD THEIR NORMAL, EVERYDAY LIVES...

STANLEY... STOP GAWKING AT THE SEA? YOU'RE NOT A GUEST HERE, YOU KNOW... BUT JUST MY SECRETARY? TAKE A LETTER

YES, MR. HORN? YES, SIR?







THOUGH THEY BATTLE VALIANTLY, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE OVERWHELMED BY SUPERIOR NUMBERS.



WHEN THE BATMAN AWAKENS.

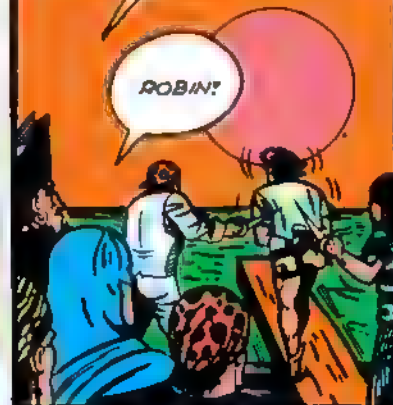
PERHAPS, YE'VE HEARD OF ME? I'M BLACKBEARD! I KNOW YOU... BATMAN

AMAZING HOW AN EIGHTEENTH CENTURY PIRATE KNOWS OF A TWENTIETH CENTURY PERSON LIKE MYSELF? WELL, MR. DIRTY BEARD, OR BLACKBEARD, WHAT NOW?



WHAT NOW? HO... HO? LOOK! YOUR LITTLE COMPANION IS GOING TO WALK THE PLANK!

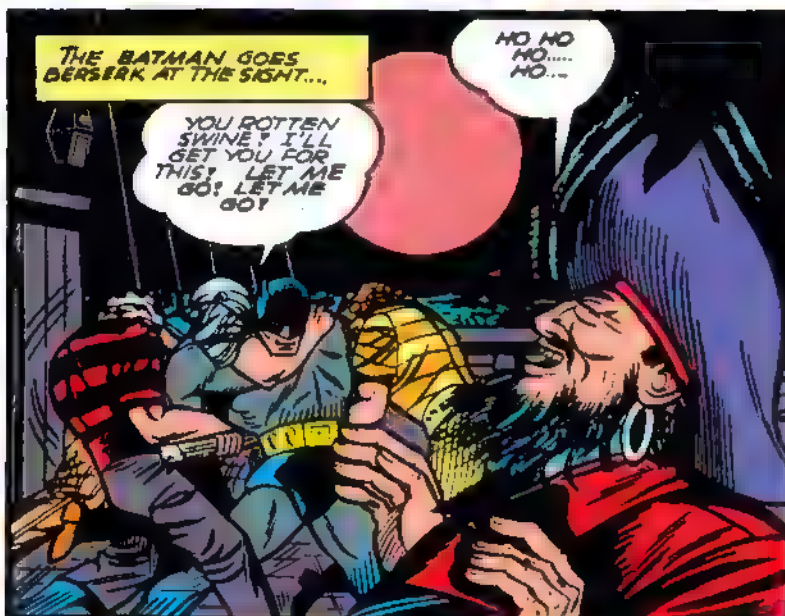
ROBIN!



THE BATMAN GOES BERSERK AT THE SIGHT...

YOU ROTTEN SWINE! I'LL GET YOU FOR THIS! LET ME GO! LET ME GO!

NO NO NO... NO...



A FINAL SHOVE ... AND ROBIN TOPPLES OFF THE PLANK!

IN YOU GO! HA HA!



NOTHING COULD HOLD THE BATMAN AFTER THIS... NOT EVEN OVER-POWERING ODDS! WITH ALMOST SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH, HE TEARS HIMSELF LOOSE... ONE HAND DARTS TO A PIRATE BELT....

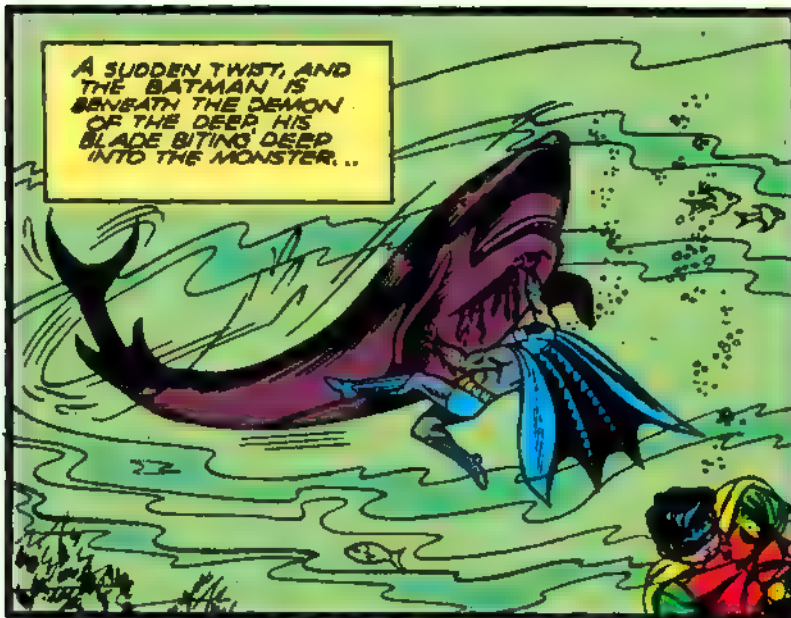


...A LITHE SPRING AND HE IS OVER THE SHIP'S SIDE....



A NEW MENACE APPROACHES - A TIGER SHARK APPEARS, CUTTING SHARPLY TOWARD ROBIN'S PLUMMETING FORM....





A SUDDEN TWIST, AND THE BATMAN IS BENEATH THE DEMON OF THE DEEP HIS BLADE BITING DEEP INTO THE MONSTER...



LOOK! BLOOD! THAT SHARK WE SEEN MUST HAVE GOT 'EM!

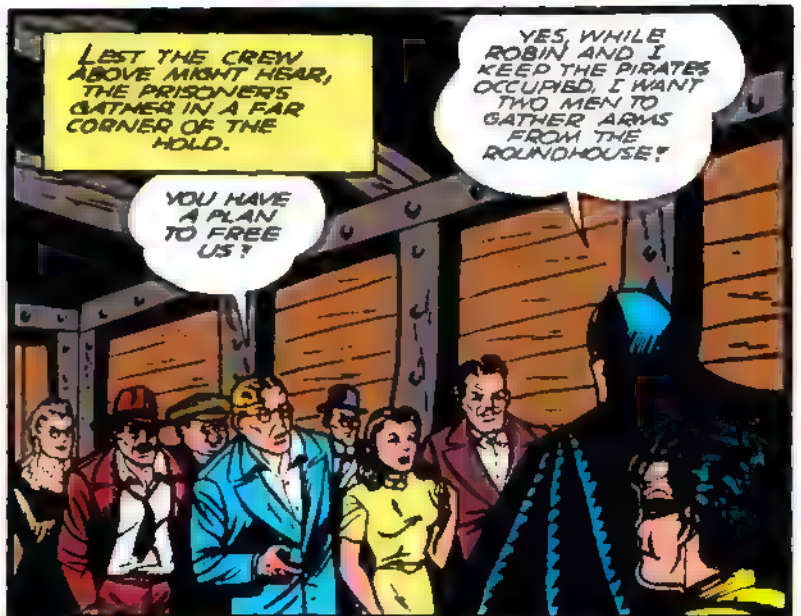
THAT'S THE END OF THE BATMAN!



BUT THE BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE VERY MUCH ALIVE... SWIMMING BENEATH THE SHIP, THEY CLIMB UP THE OTHER SIDE...

THE HOLD IS OPEN ABOVE US! WE HEARD BLACKBEARD AND HIS MEN TALKING ABOUT YOU!

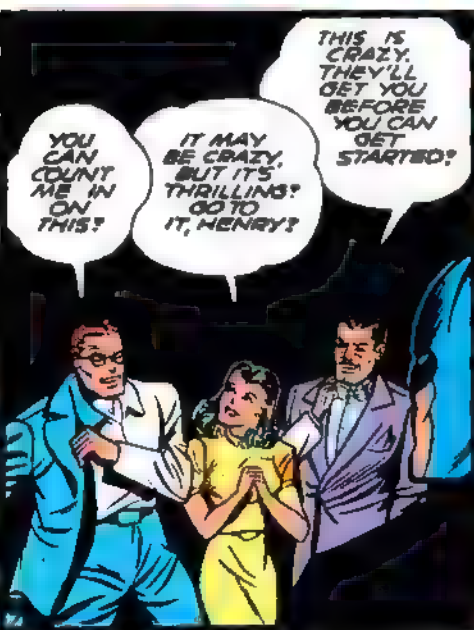
THANKS, BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW?



LEST THE CREW ABOVE MIGHT HEAR, THE PRISONER'S GATHER IN A FAR CORNER OF THE HOLD.

YOU HAVE A PLAN TO FREE US?

YES, WHILE ROBIN AND I KEEP THE PIRATES OCCUPIED, I WANT TWO MEN TO GATHER ARMS FROM THE ROUNDHOUSE!



YOU CAN COUNT ME IN ON THIS?

IT MAY BE CRAZY, BUT IT'S THRILLING! GO TO IT, HENRY!

THIS IS CRAZY, THEY'LL GET YOU BEFORE YOU CAN GET STARTED?



EYES SHINING WITH EAGERNESS, COWDEN STEPS FORWARD...

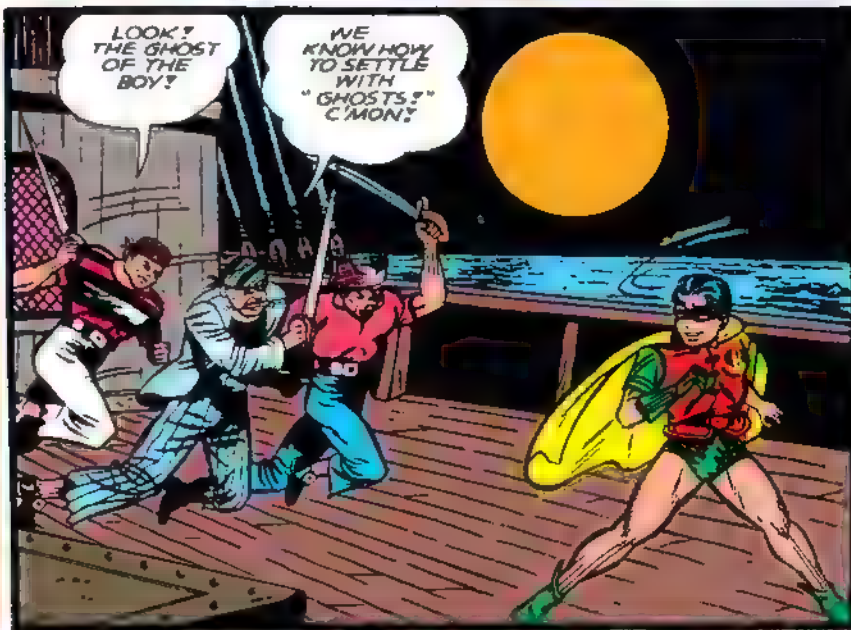
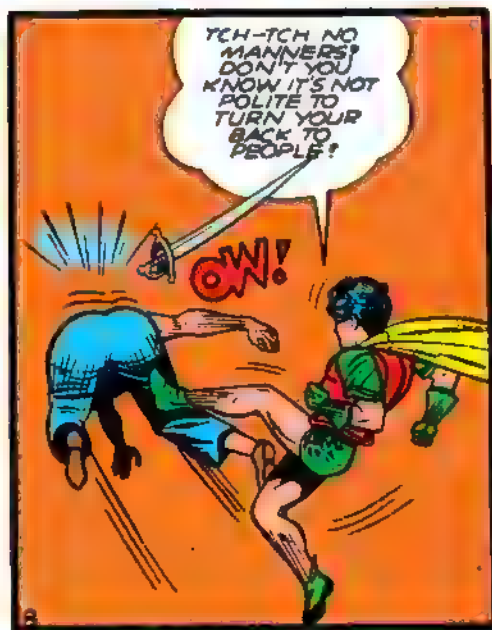
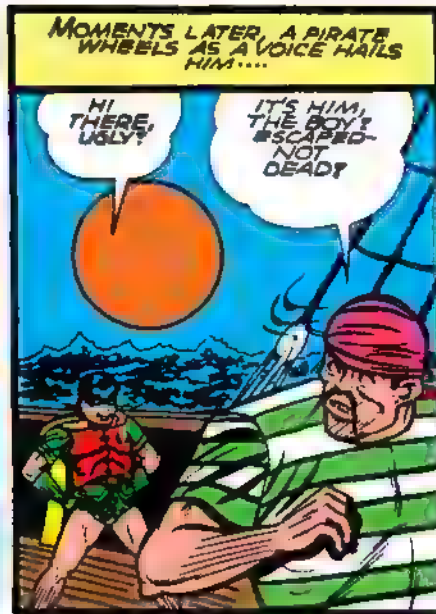
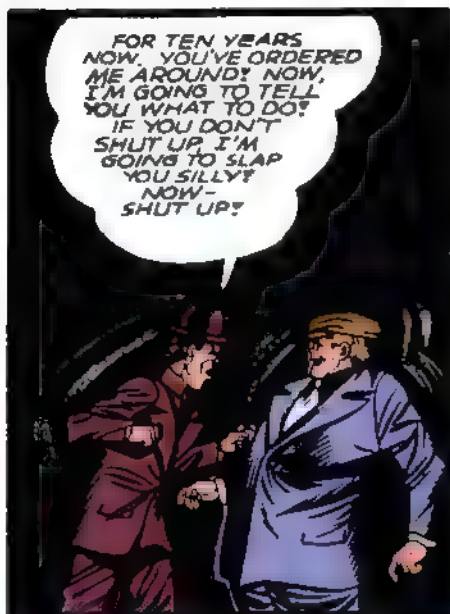
I'M YOUR OTHER MAN! I WANT TO FIGHT!

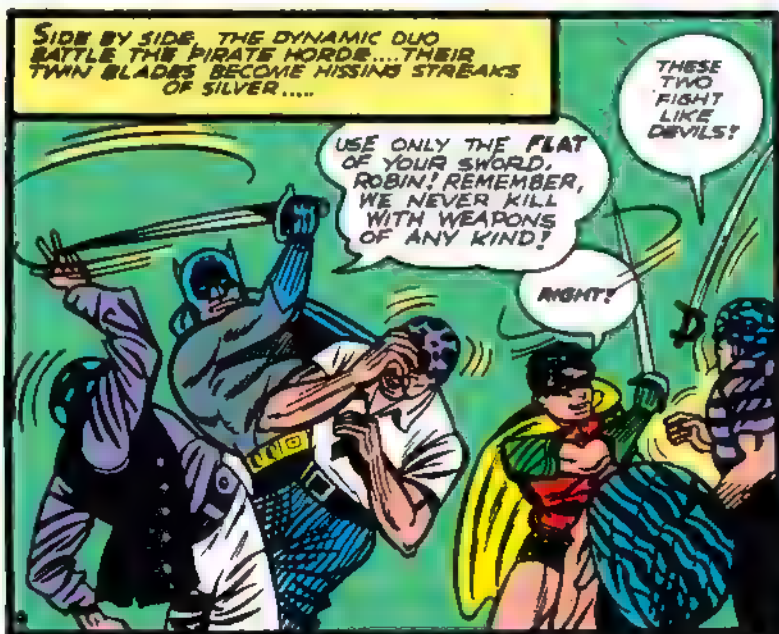
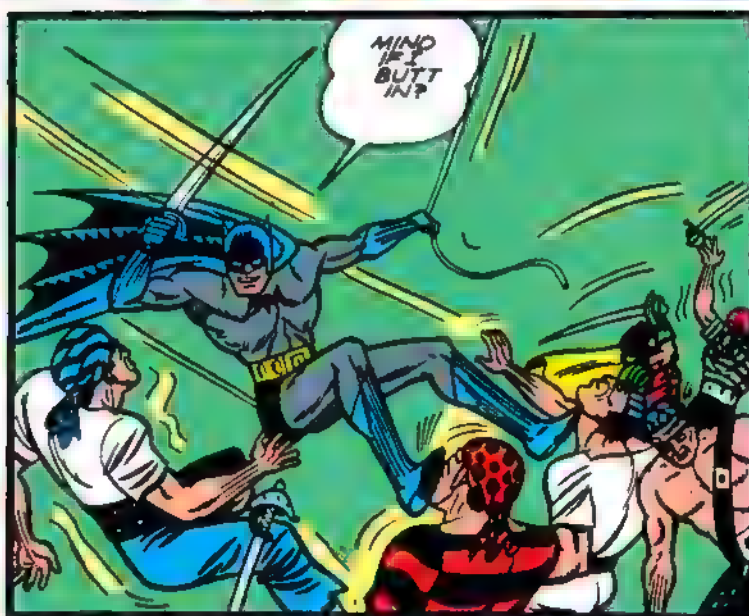
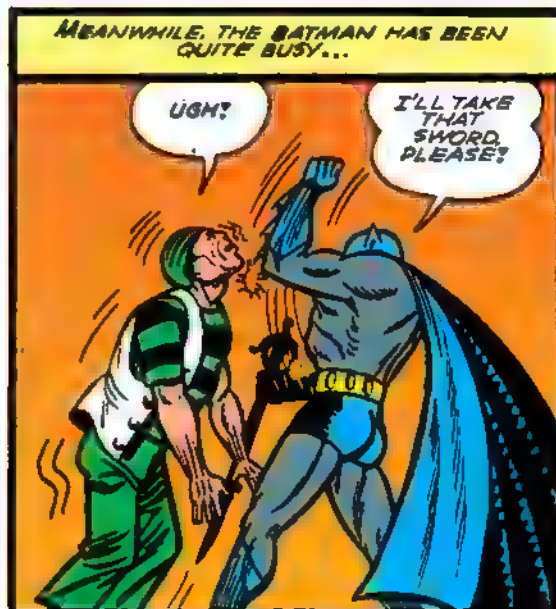
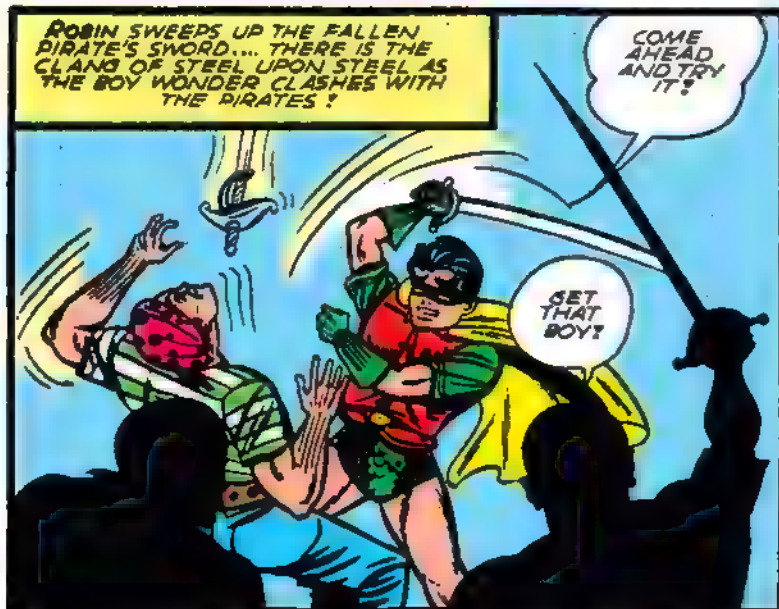
YOU'RE MAD, ALL OF YOU- MAD! TRUSTING YOUR LIFE TO THIS- THIS MASKED BANDIT!-

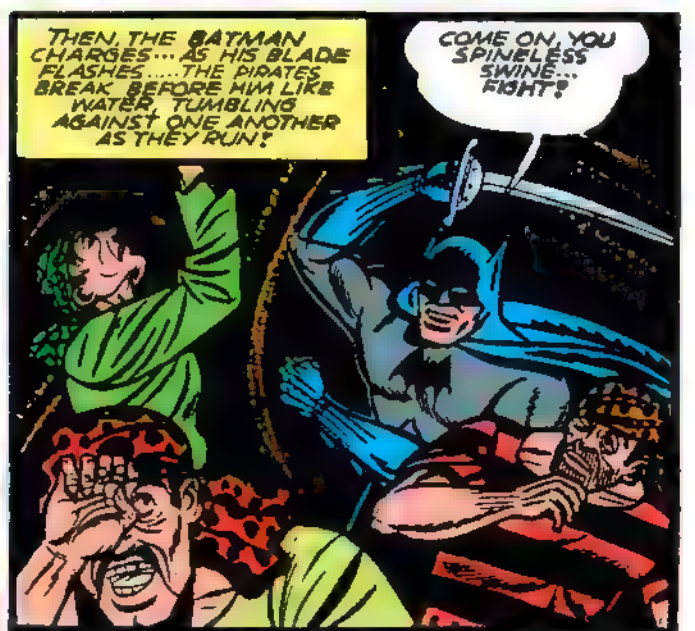
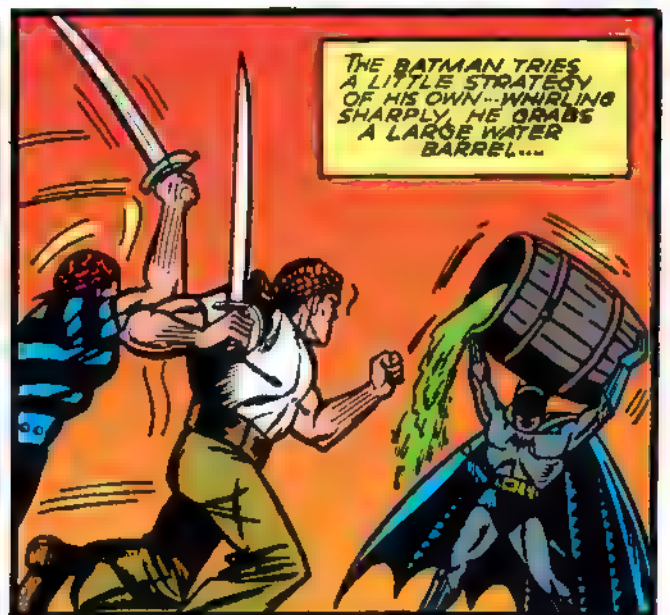
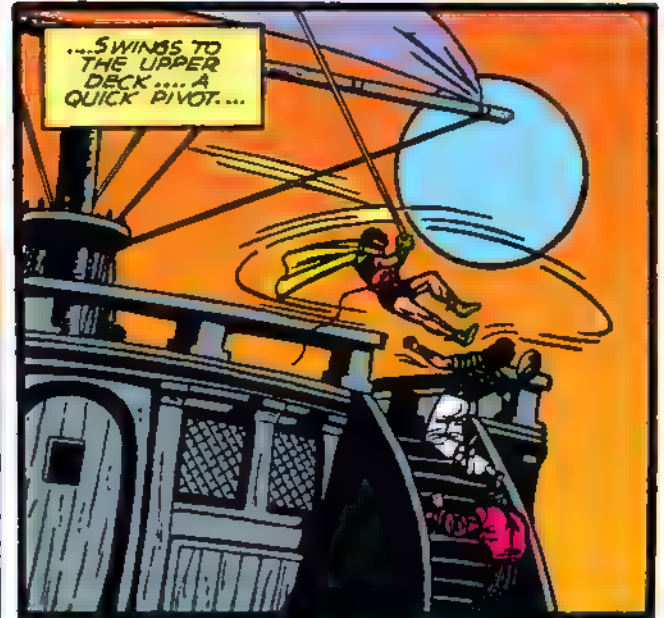


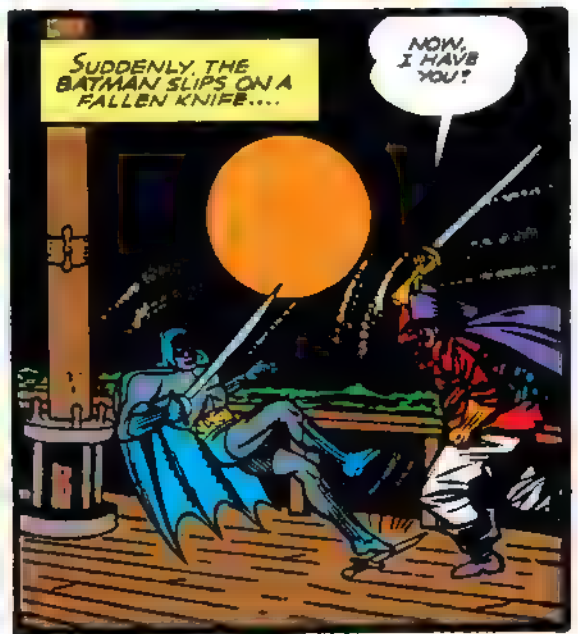
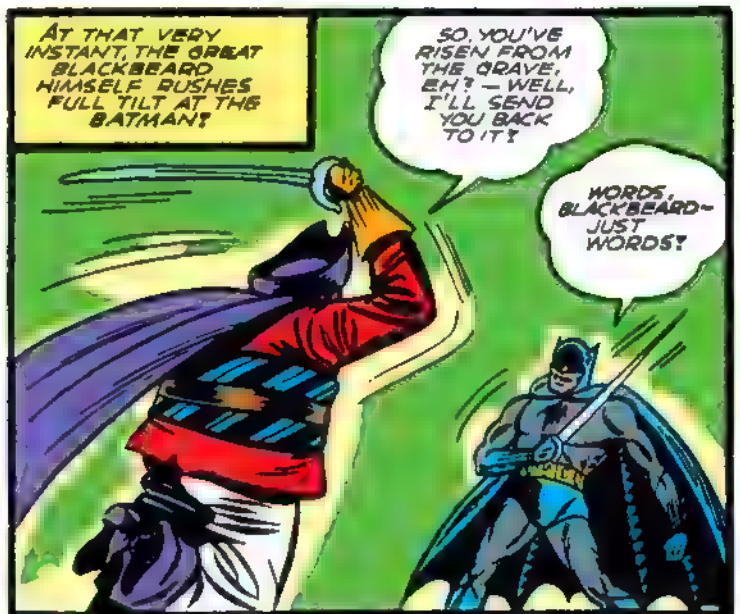
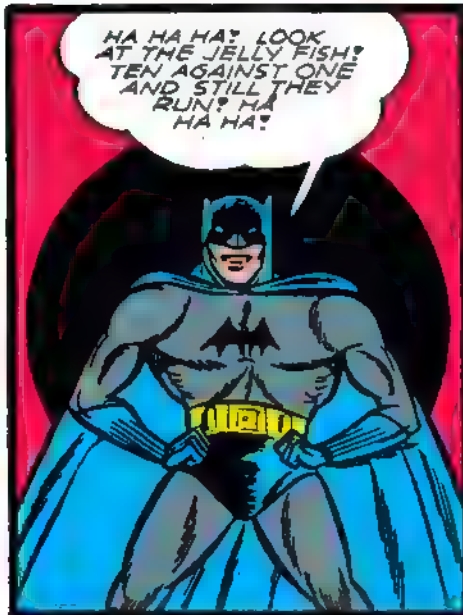
THE BATMAN? LIKE AS NOT HE'S...

SHUT UP!



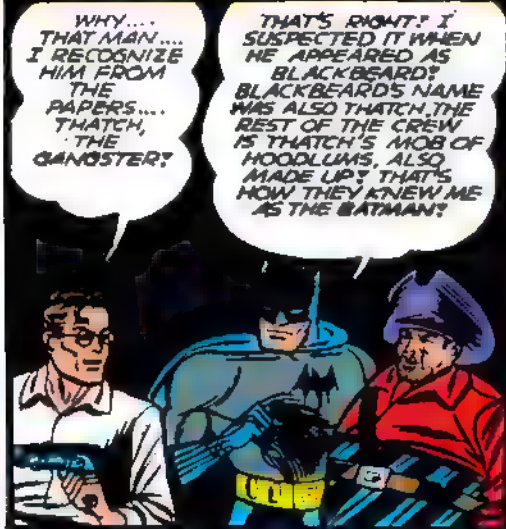




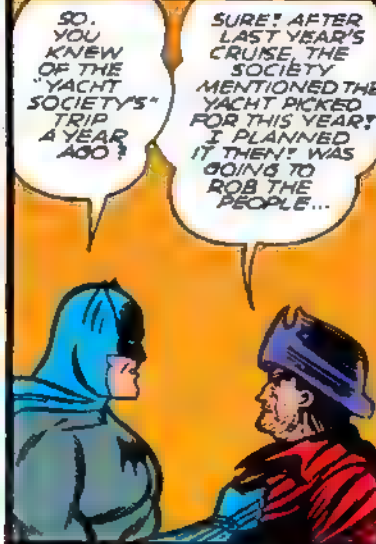




THE BATMAN YANKS AT THE BEARD AND....



THATCH CONFESSES....

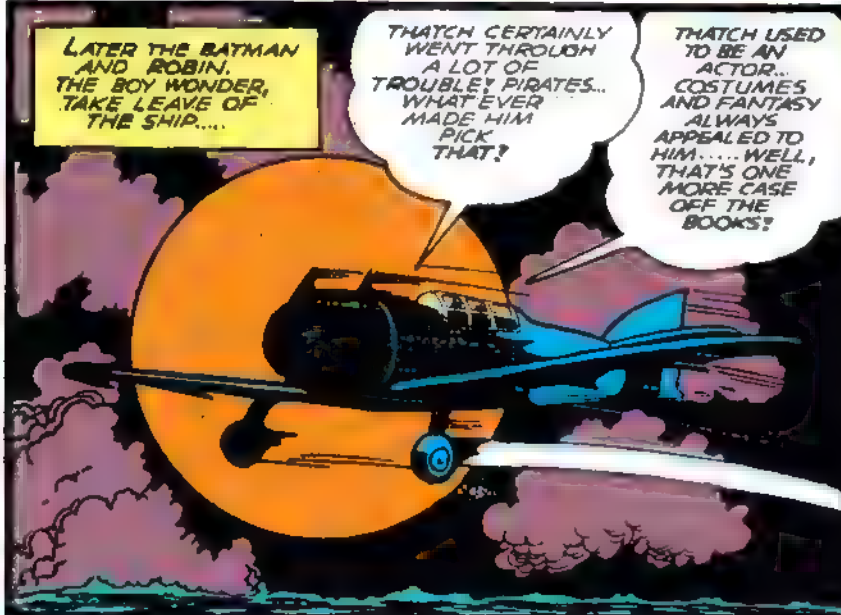


... AND HOLD THEM FOR A RANSOM? I GOT MY MEN TOGETHER AND HAD A FRIEND TEACH THEM TO DUEL! I BOUGHT THIS SHIP FOR CASH UNDER ANOTHER NAME!

AND NATURALLY, WHEN YOU RETURNED AS YOURSELF AGAIN, NO-ONE WOULD SUSPECT THE SUDDENLY REINCARNATED BLACKBEARD AND HIS PIRATES, ARE YOU GANGSTER? CLEVER?



LATER THE BATMAN AND ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER, TAKE LEAVE OF THE SHIP....

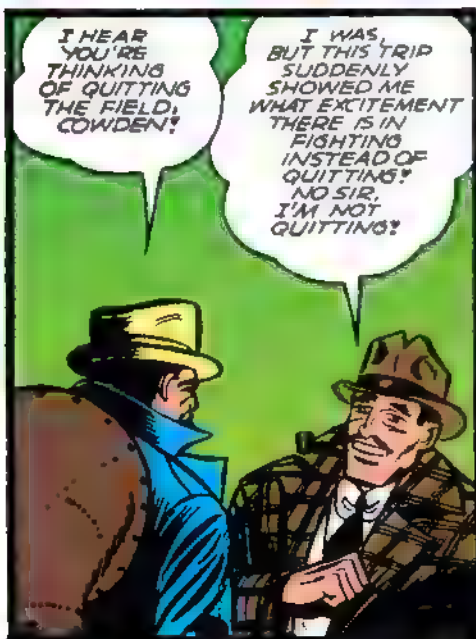


THE BATMAN'S ADVENTURE MAY BE FINISHED, BUT FOR OTHERS IT IS JUST BEGINNING... ABOARD THE YACHT....



I HEAR YOU'RE THINKING OF QUITTING THE FIELD, COWDEN!

I WAS, BUT THIS TRIP SUDDENLY SHOWED ME WHAT EXCITEMENT THERE IS IN FIGHTING INSTEAD OF QUITTING! NO SIR, I'M NOT QUITTING!




THEN YOU'RE NOT GOING TO FIRE ME?

HM? HARUMPH? NO! OUR ORGANIZATION NEEDS MEN LIKE YOU! I RATHER LIKE THE WAY YOU SPOKE UP TO ME... SHOULD HAVE A LONG TIME AGO? HERE—HAVE A CIGAR?




AND SO, A SUDDEN TURN OF EVENTS BRINGS ABOUT CERTAIN REACTIONS IN PEOPLE! IMAGINE HOW THEY WOULD STILL BE ACTING IF THIS ADVENTURE HAD NOT HAPPENED?



Acclaimed
AMERICA'S
NUMBER ONE
ADVENTURE TEAM

THE AMAZING BATMAN
WITH THAT SENSATIONAL
YOUNG PHENOMENON, THE
Original AND GREATEST
WONDER BOY OF THEM ALL
ROBIN— THRILL YOU
EVERY MONTH—
WITH THEIR
ASTOUNDING,
ACTION-
A-MINUTE
EXPLOITS
IN
DETECTIVE
COMICS



BATMAN

WITH
Robin
THE BOY WONDER

BOB KANE

2¢

AUTHENTICATED NEWS
NEW YORK'S BEST

2¢

2 CENTS

VOL. X, NO. 41

NEW YORK CITY

PUBLIC ENEMY NO. 1 STARTS JAIL SENTENCE

ALONG WITH THE GLITTER OF WEALTH THEY SOUGHT, MEN OF EVIL COULD EXPECT TO FIND THEIR NEMESIS THE BATMAN... MASTER THE BATMAN, MASTER SLEUTH, WHO TIME AND TIME AGAIN, WITH THE AID OF LAUGHING ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER, HAD CRUSHED THE LOATHSOME CRIMINAL VULTURES WHO SOUGHT TO PREY ON SOCIETY

CRIMINAL IDENTIFICATION FILES



JIMMY MCCOY
PUBLIC ENEMY NO. 1
FOUND GUILTY

JIMMY MCCOY
PUBLIC ENEMY NO. 1
FOUND GUILTY
JIMMY MCCOY
PUBLIC ENEMY NO. 1
FOUND GUILTY

YOU WIN, JIMMY. DON'T H-HIT ME AGAIN!

WELL, JIMMY, YOU DID IT. YOU'RE KING OF THE RACKETS!

MANY MEN HAVE TRIED TO BEAT THE LAW. JIMMY MCCOY WAS SUCH A MAN. HE STARTED FROM THE GUTTER, CLAWED HIS WAY UP UNTIL HE BECAME AN OVERLORD OF CRIME, PUBLIC ENEMY NO. 1... THEN, DESERTED BY HIS FRIENDS, HUNTED BY THE POLICE, DIED VIOLENTLY AND ALONE, IN THE VERY GUTTER THAT HAD BEEN HIS BEGINNING!... THERE IS A MORAL TO HIS STORY... PERHAPS YOU ALREADY KNOW IT BY NOW.

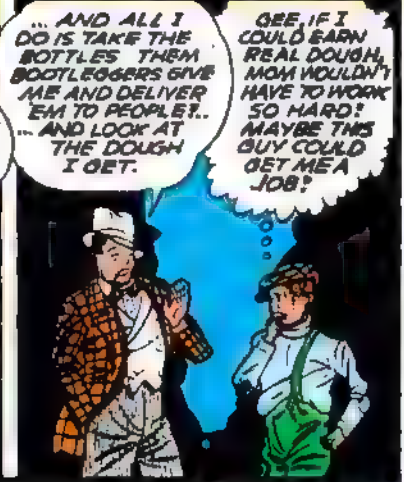
THE REAL STORY OF JIMMY HESCOY BEGINS WHEN HIS FATHER WAS KILLED IN AN ACCIDENT AT THE PLANT WHERE HE WORKED...

OH JIMMY, WHATEVER WILL BECOME OF US NOW?

DON'T WORRY I'LL QUIT SCHOOL AND GET A JOB! I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU!

WHEN JIMMY AND HIS MOTHER MOVED TO A POORER SECTION OF TOWN... THE SLUMS. JIMMY LEARNED THE LAW OF THE STREETS, AND IN SPITE OF HIS SIZE, BECAME KNOWN AS A TOUGH LITTLE EGG...

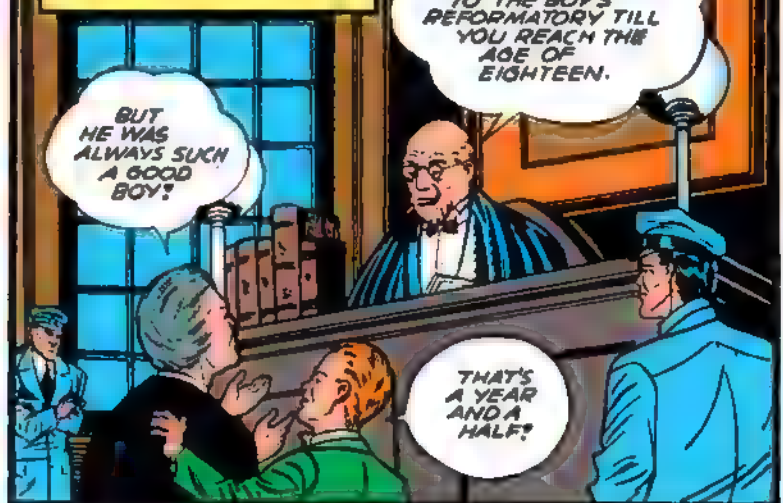
THOUGH HE WORKED, HE DIDN'T EARN MUCH AND HIS MOTHER HAD TO TAKE IN WASHING. AT THIS TIME, PROHIBITION WAS PASSED!



IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE JIMMY WAS DELIVERING BOOTLEG LIQUOR! HE TOLD HIS MOTHER HE HAD A GOOD JOB IN AN OFFICE... AND SHE... GULLIBLE SOUL... BELIEVED HIM!



THEN ONE DAY, JIMMY WAS CAUGHT AND TRIED BEFORE A JUSTICE...



UPON HEARING THE SENTENCE, HIS MOTHER GAVE A HEART-RENDING SHRIEK AND TOPPLED TO THE FLOOR! THE SHOCK WAS TOO MUCH, AND SHE DIED WITH HER SON'S NAME ON HER LIPS!



JIMMY WENT TO THE REFORMATORY, BUT FROM THAT MOMENT ON, THE DELUDED BOY SINCERELY BELIEVED THAT THE LAW WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF HIS MOTHER!



WHEN HE WAS RELEASED, JIMMY SECURED ANOTHER JOB DELIVERING BOOTLEG LIQUOR, BUT HE WAS SOON CAUGHT AGAIN!



IN JAIL, JIMMY BECOMES ACQUAINTED WITH HARDENED CRIMINALS... MEN WHO HAD BUCKED THE LAW ALL THEIR LIFE!



WHEN WE GET OUT, KID, I'LL GET YOU IN WITH A MOB! I KNOW! YOU'RE A SMART KID! YOU CAN GET TO BE A BIG SHOT!

...AN' FROM NOW ON, YOU'RE GONNA BUY OUR BEER! - AN' IF YA DON'T...



IN THE YEARS THAT FOLLOWED, JIMMY MCSOY CHANGED FROM AN EMBITTERED BOY, TO A SNEERING, CUNNING CRIMINAL

JIMMY WASN'T CONTENT TO BE A MERE MOBSTER. HE ORGANIZED HIS OWN MOB AND IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE HE WAS BEING CALLED THE KING OF RACKETS!



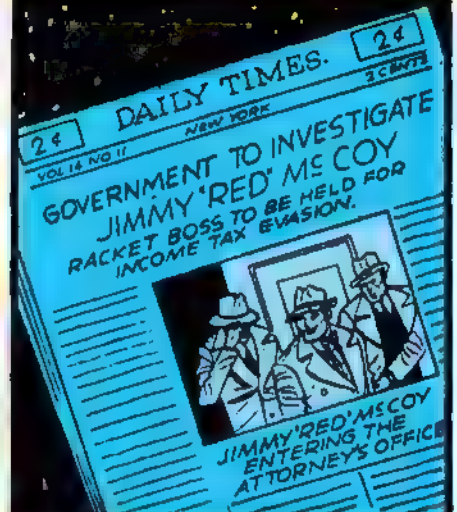
I WANT YOU BOYS TO PAY A VISIT TO AUDIE DAVIS! TELL HIM I'M TAKING OVER THE NORTH SIDE! GET GOIN'!

WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO? BOOTLEGGIN' WON'T GET US DOUGH ANYMORE!

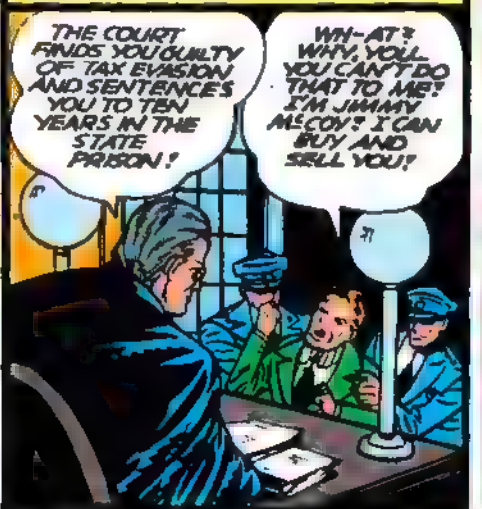
WE'LL EXPAND OUR "PROTECTION" RACKET! THERE'S WAYS WE CAN GET DOUGH FROM THE SUCKERS! STOP WORRYIN'!



BUT THE PUBLIC WAS AFTER JIMMY AND HIS LIKE!... G-MEN CALLED HIM 'PUBLIC ENEMY NO. 1'!



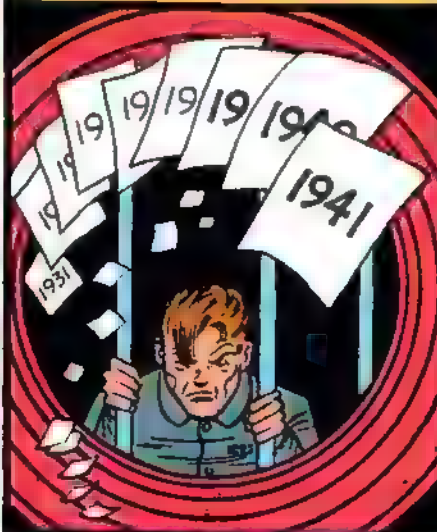
INVESTIGATION OF JIMMY'S EARNINGS SHOWED HE HAD BEEN CARELESS ABOUT HIS ENTRIES. HE WAS FOUND GUILTY...



THE COURT FINDS YOU GUILTY OF TAX EVASION AND SENTENCES YOU TO TEN YEARS IN THE STATE PRISON!

WH-AT? WHY, YOLL YOU CAN'T DO THAT TO ME? I'M JIMMY MCSOY! I CAN BUY AND SELL YOU!

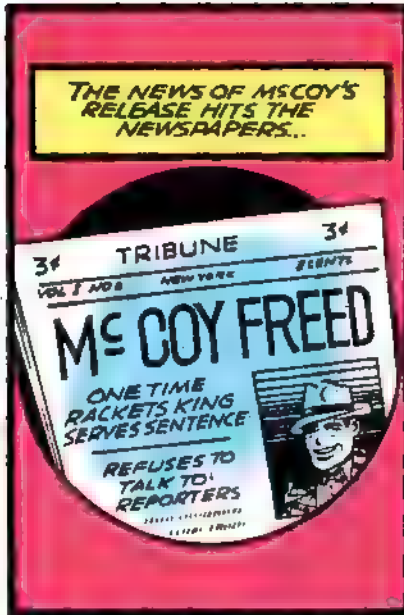
BUT JIMMY'S THREATS DIDN'T HELP HIM... HE WAS SENT TO PRISON. THE YEARS PASSED...



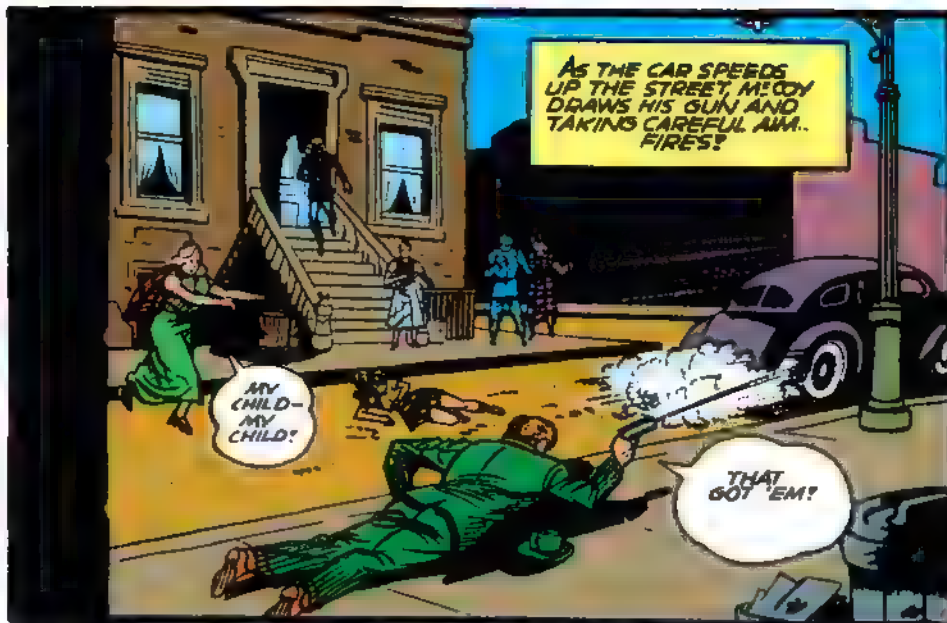
THEN, THE DAY CAME WHEN HE WAS RELEASED... JIMMY "RED" MCSOY WAS FREE ONCE MORE!



NOW THAT I'M OUT, THE FIRST THING I'M GONNA DO IS GET MY OLD MOB TOGETHER! I'M GONNA RUN THIS TOWN JUST LIKE I USED TO!



BUT ONE STRAY BULLET
FINDS A TARGET ... IN THE
LEG OF A LITTLE GIRL
RUNNING FOR SAFETY?

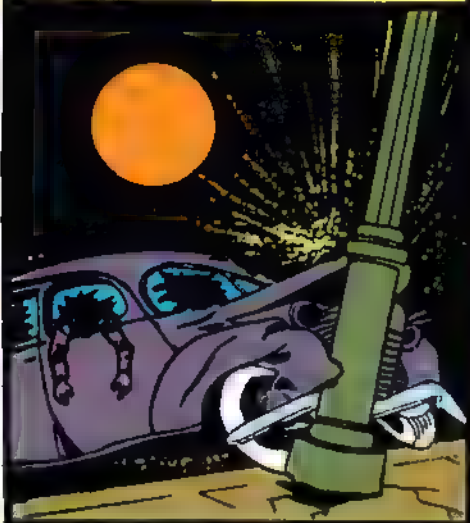


AS THE CAR SPEEDS
UP THE STREET, MCCOY
DRAWS HIS GUN AND
TAKING CAREFUL AIM...
FIRES?

MY CHILD—
MY CHILD!

THAT
GOT 'EM?

AS THE TIRE BLOWS OUT THE
CAR SKIDS MADLY AND CRASHES
INTO A POLE?

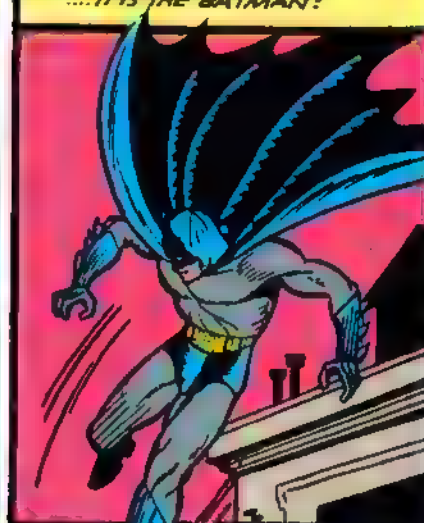


WITH A TRIUMPHANT LAUGH,
MCCOY LEAPS TO HIS FEET AND
DARTS AWAY.



HA-HA!
NOW, I'LL
SCRAM BEFORE
THE COPS
GET HERE!

BUT AT THAT MOMENT A
MANTLED FIGURE PLUMMETS
DOWN FROM A LOW ROOF TOP
....IT IS THE BATMAN!



...THE MIGHTY CRIME-SMASHER
CHASES AFTER THE FLEEING
HOODLUM.....



THE
BATMAN?

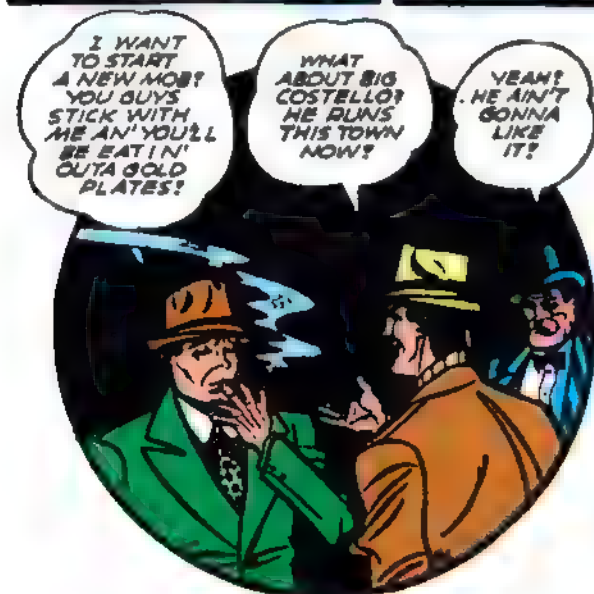
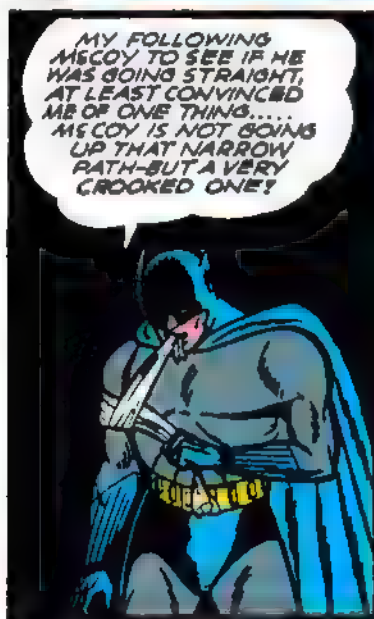
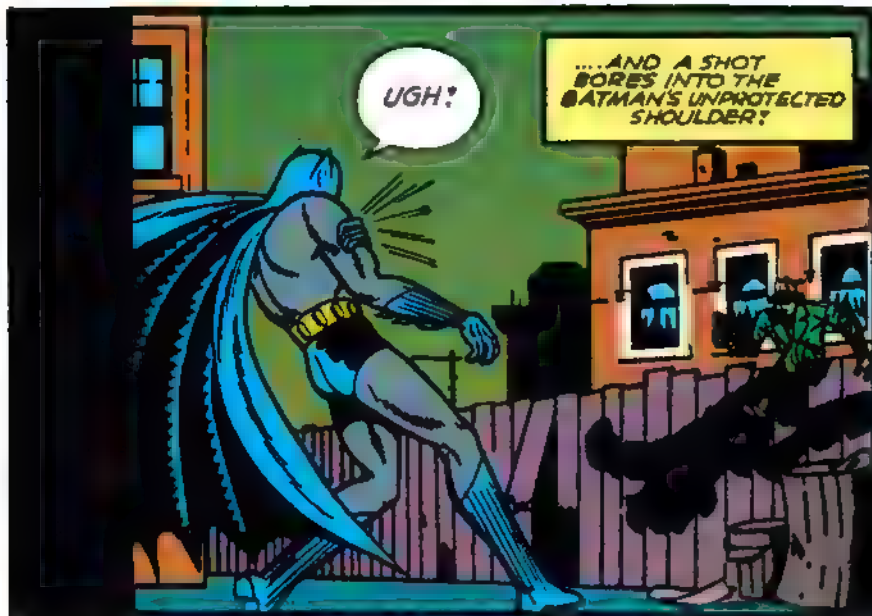
THE BATMAN FLATTENS HIMSELF
AGAINST THE WALL AS BULLETS HIT
THE WALL, SENDING CHIPS INTO HIS
FACE.....



AS THE CHASE
IS RESUMED, THE
GUNMAN STRADDLES
A FENCE, AND WHIPPING
AROUND, FIRES AGAIN?..



I'LL
GET 'IM
THIS
TIME!



AFTER LIGHTING HIS OWN CIGARETTE, A THUG HOLDS THE LIGHT FOR MSCOY...



HERE'S A LIGHT, "RED."

HOLD THAT FOR ME?

AFTER LIGHTING UP, MSCOY BLOWS THE FLAME?



HEY!... WHAT'S THE IDEA? YOU KNEW I WANTED A LIGHT?

SHUT UP! I NEVER LIGHT THREE ON A MATCH? IT'S BAD LUCK!

SAME OLD JIMMY MSCOY... STILL SUPERSTITIOUS! I'LL BET YOU STILL HAVE THAT OLD LUCKY RABBIT'S FOOT!

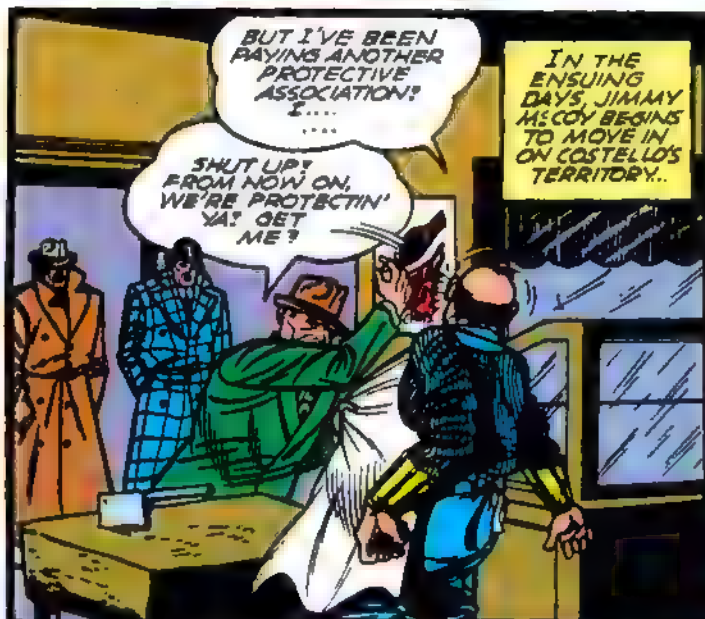
YOU BET YOUR SWEET LIFE I HAVE. THE DAY I LOSE THAT MY LUCK'S GONNA RUN OUT!



BUT I'VE BEEN PAYING ANOTHER PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION?!

SHUT UP! FROM NOW ON, WE'RE PROTECTIN' YA! GET ME?

IN THE ENSUING DAYS, JIMMY MSCOY BEGINS TO MOVE IN ON COSTELLO'S TERRITORY..



CAN'T PAY UP, EH?.. OKEY, BOYS..... THROW THAT ACID OVER THE CLOTHES?!

NO ONE SEEMS SAFE FROM HIS MEN...



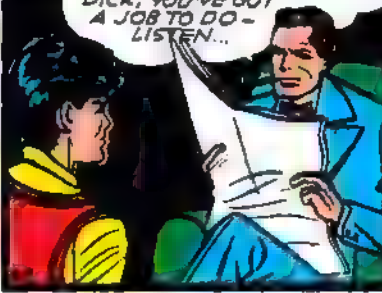
AS THE RIVAL GANGS CLASH, BATTLES ARE FOUGHT... THE SMOKING GUN HOLDS SWAY. ...!



WHILE IN HIS APARTMENT, BRUCE WAYNE, WHO IS IN REALITY THE BATMAN, SPEAKS WITH HIS WARD, DICK GRAYSON, WHOSE OTHER SELF IS ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER?

READING ABOUT THE GANGWAR AGAIN?

YES, AND I'VE GOT A FEELING THAT MSCOY IS THE ONE WHO IS BUCKING BIG COSTELLO!-BUT NOBODY CAN PROVE IT. STORE OWNERS ARE AFRAID TO TALK. DICK, YOU'VE GOT A JOB TO DO - LISTEN...



THE NEXT DAY, A GRUBBY DIRTY-FACED SHOE-SHINE BOY STANDS BEFORE THE HOUSE WHEREIN "RED" MC COY LIVES.....



BUT INSTEAD OF "SCRAMMING", THE BOY FOLLOWS THE GANGSTERS INTO THE HOUSE.....



HE STERS SOFTLY TO THE DOOR AND LISTENS INTENTLY AT THE KEYHOLE.



APPLYING HIS EYE TO THE KEYHOLE, THE BOY BEGINS TO READ THE LIPS OF THE MEN.....

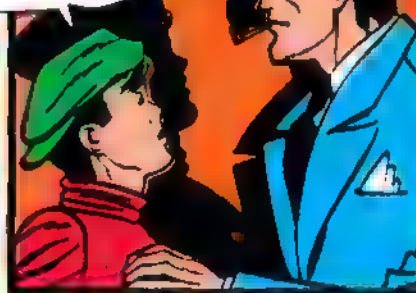


READING THE LIPS, AS WOULD A DEAF MAN, IS ONE OF THE MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS USED BY THE BATMAN AND ROBIN IN THEIR FIGHT AGAINST CRIME

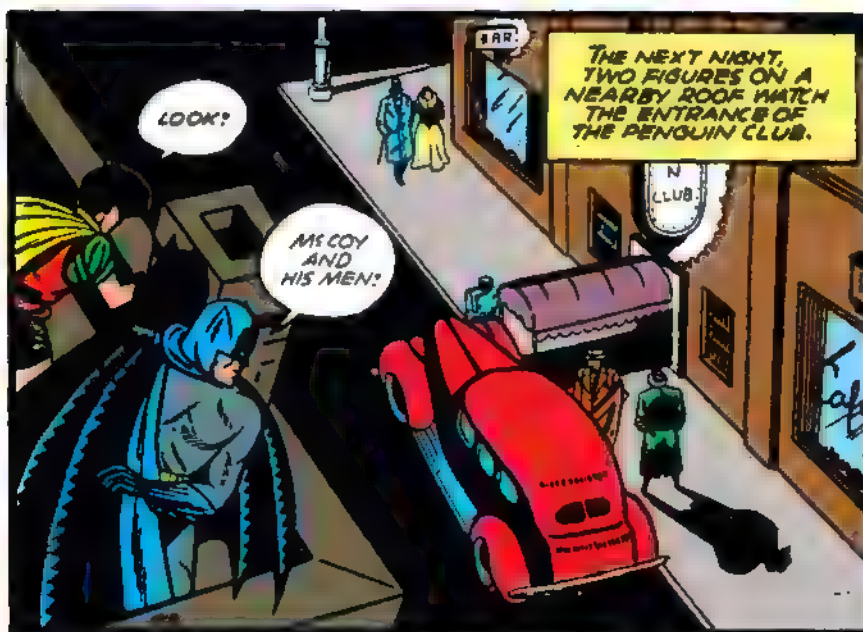
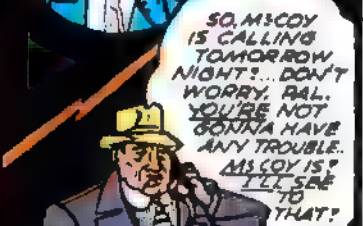
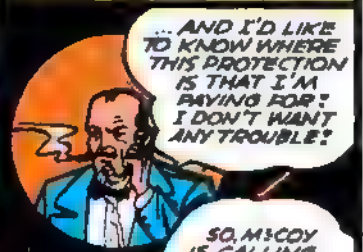
THE BOY WONDER QUICKLY REPORTS TO HIS CHIEF....

AND THE OWNER OF THE PENGUIN CLUB REFUSES TO PAY PROTECTION MONEY TO MC COY BECAUSE HE SAYS HE'S PAYING COSTELLO FOR THAT?

SO, THEY'RE GOING TO SCARE HIM TOMORROW NIGHT? HMMM? I'VE A HUNCH WE'LL BE THERE, TOO!



.... BUT AT THAT VERY MOMENT, AN UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENT IS TAKING PLACE..... THE NIGHT CLUB OWNER CALLS BIG COSTELLO!



THE NEXT NIGHT, TWO FIGURES ON A NEARBY ROOF WATCH THE ENTRANCE OF THE PENGUIN CLUB.

A SCANT FEW MOMENTS LATER...

I RECOGNIZE THEM! THEY BELONG TO BIG COSTELLO'S MOB? C'MON.... THERE'S GOING TO BE SHOOTING.... AND THAT PLACE IS JAMMED WITH PEOPLE!



INSIDE THE PENGUIN CLUB



YOU WHAT DO YOU WANT?

YOU KNOW WHAT I WANT? WHEN ARE YOU GONNA PAY OFF?

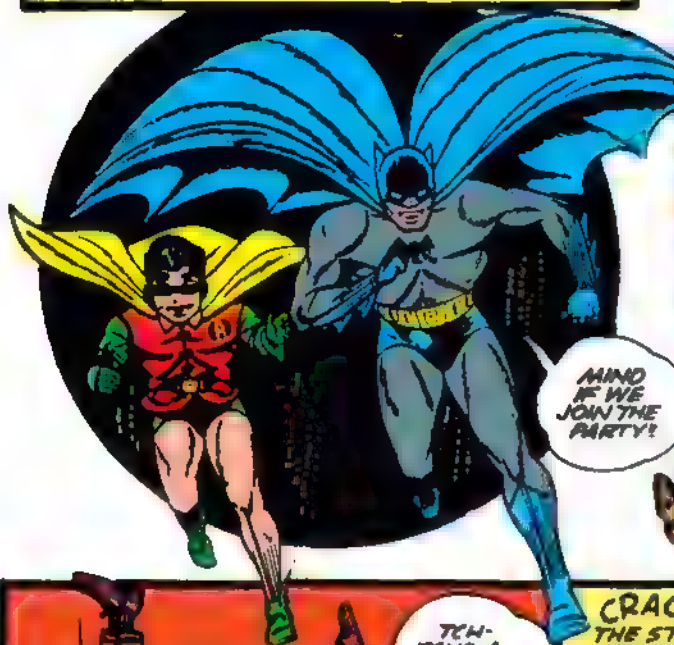
YOU'RE GONNA GET THE PAYOFF RIGHT NOW, MC COY!

MC COY AND HIS MEN WHIRL SWIFTLY, TUGGING AT THEIR GUNS? PANDEMONIUM BREAKS OUT WITH THE SOUND OF GUNFIRE!



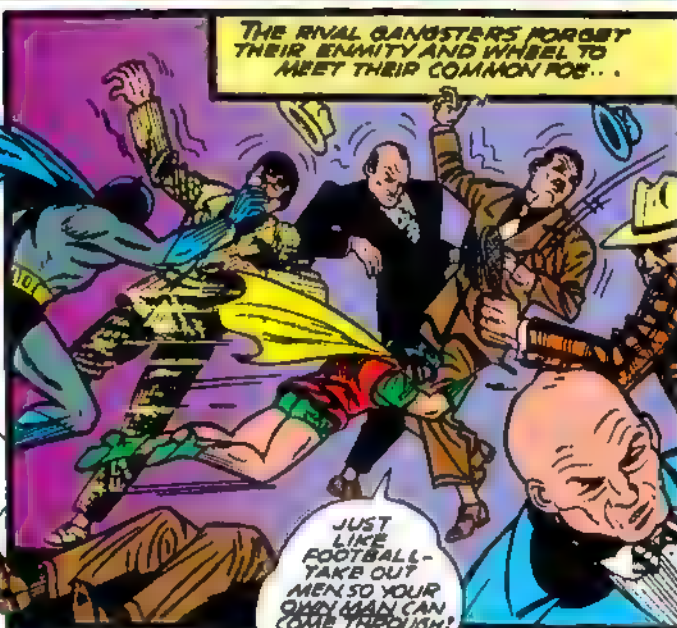
OUCH! MY SHOULDER!

ABRUPTLY, STREAKING TOWARD THE FRAY ARE TWO INSPIRING FIGURES... IT IS THAT DYNAMIC DUO... BATMAN AND ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER!



MIND IF WE JOIN THE PARTY?

THE RIVAL GANGSTERS FORGET THEIR ENMITY AND WHEEL TO MEET THEIR COMMON FOE...



JUST LIKE FOOTBALL - TAKE OUT MEN SO YOUR OWN MAN CAN COME THROUGH!



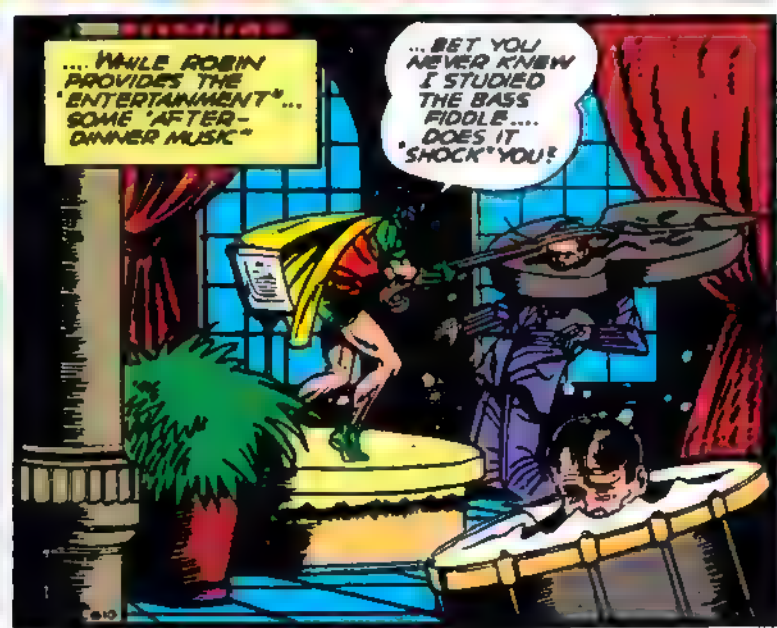
TEH-TEH! A GENTLEMAN NEVER RESTS HIS ELBOWS ON THE TABLE!

CRACK! THE STEEL FISTS OF THE BATMAN BEGIN THEIR DEADLY AND EFFECTIVE WORK...

MC COY... THOUGH NICKED IN THE SHOULDER - BLAZES AWAY FURIOUSLY AT THE RIVAL GANGSTERS



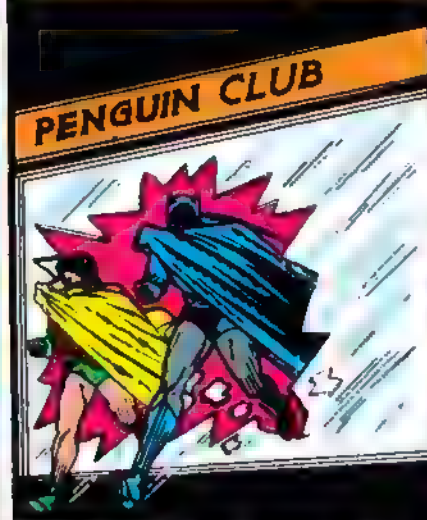
I'LL TEACH THE DIRTY CROOKS TO MIND THEIR OWN BUSINESS...



SUDDENLY THE AIR IS PIERCED BY THE SOUND OF A POLICE WHISTLE ...



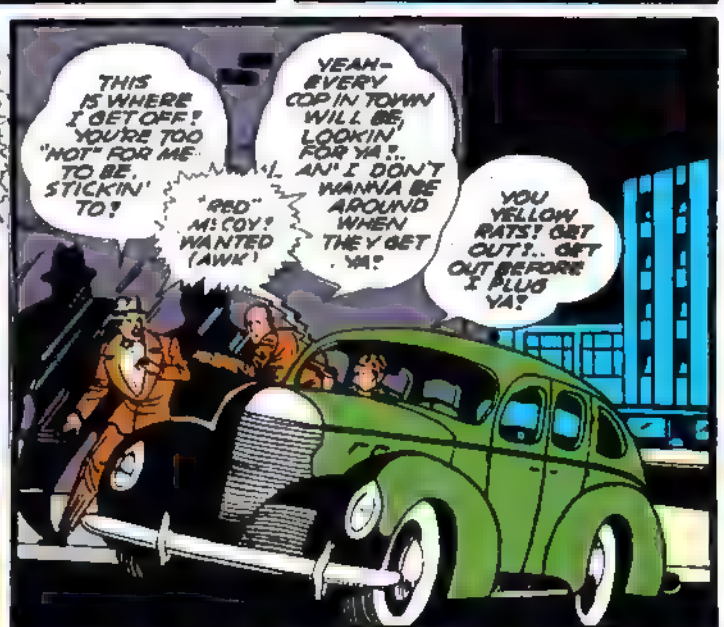
THEIR WORK DONE, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN DECIDE UPON THEIR EXIT?



UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE POLICE, THE NIGHT CLUB OWNER FORGETS HIS FEAR OF REPRISAL FROM THE RACKETEERS AND BABBLES HIS TALE OF WOE.

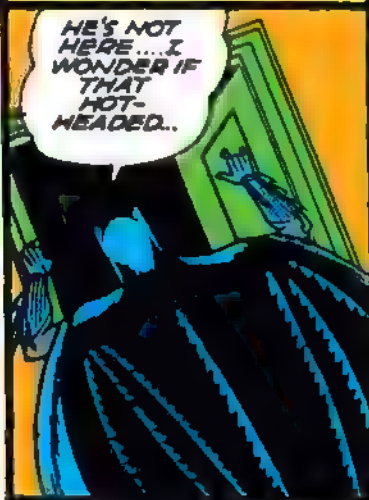


AS MCCOY SPEEDS AWAY IN HIS CAR, HE TURNS ON THE RADIO TO THE POLICE CALLS AND HEARS.....



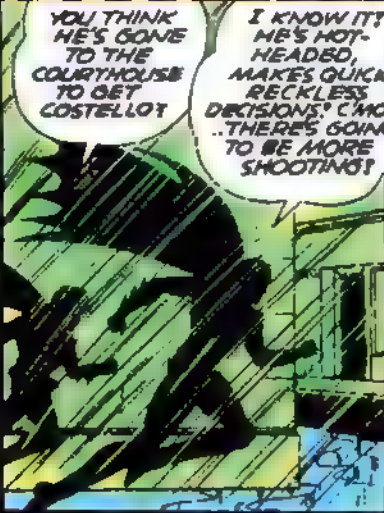
THUNDER PULLS GIANT WAVES..... JAGGED STREAKS OF WHITE LIGHTNING LEAP IN THE STORM-LASHED SKY... A HEAVY DOWNPOUR OF RAIN PELTS DOWN ON THE LONE STAGGERING FIGURE.....

AT THAT VERY INSTANT, THE MANTLED FORM OF THE BATMAN STRIDES INTO MCS COY'S ROOMS...



HE'S NOT HERE... I WONDER IF THAT HOT-HEADED...

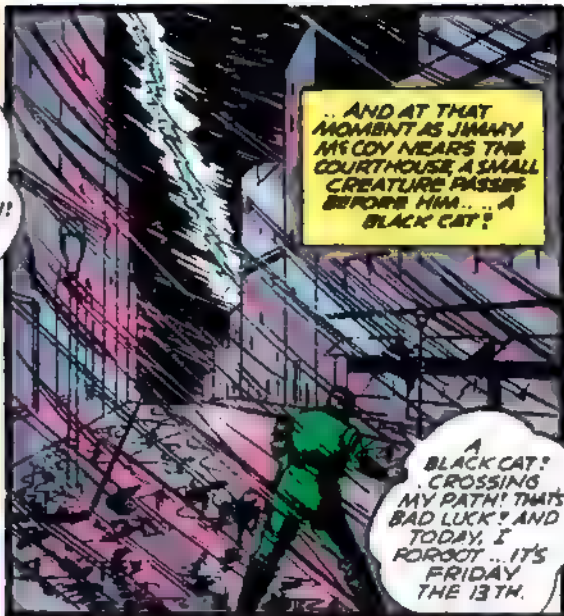
THE NEXT MOMENT, HE AND ROBIN ARE RACING ALONG THE STREETS IN DESPERATE HASTE.



YOU THINK HE'S GONE TO THE COURTHOUSE TO GET COSTELLO?

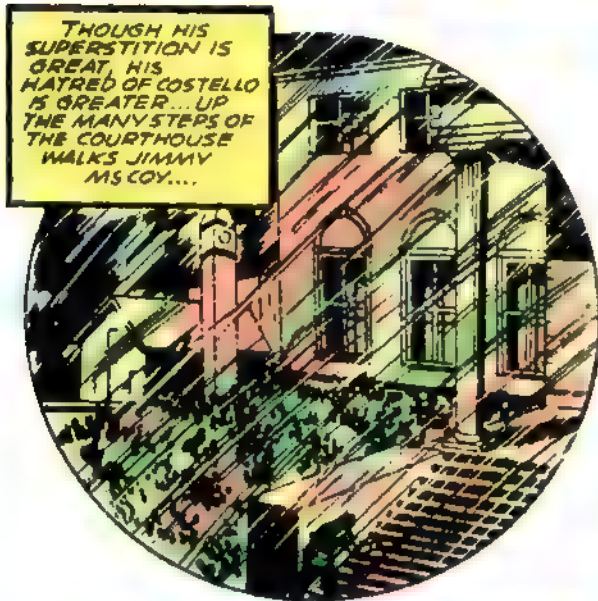
I KNOW IT! HE'S HOT-HEADED, MAKES QUICK, RECKLESS DECISIONS! C'MON! THERE'S GOING TO BE MORE SHOOTING!

AND AT THAT MOMENT AS JIMMY MCS COY NEARS THE COURTHOUSE, A SMALL CREATURE PASSES BEFORE HIM... A BLACK CAT?



A BLACK CAT? CROSSING MY PATH! THAT'S BAD LUCK! AND TODAY, I FORGOT... IT'S FRIDAY THE 13TH.

THOUGH HIS SUPERSTITION IS GREAT, HIS HATRED OF COSTELLO IS GREATER... UP THE MANY STEPS OF THE COURTHOUSE WALKS JIMMY MCS COY...



... THEN, THE GREAT DOORS OPEN AND CLOSE BEHIND THE FIGURES OF THREE MEN... "BIG" COSTELLO AND HIS BODYGUARDS?

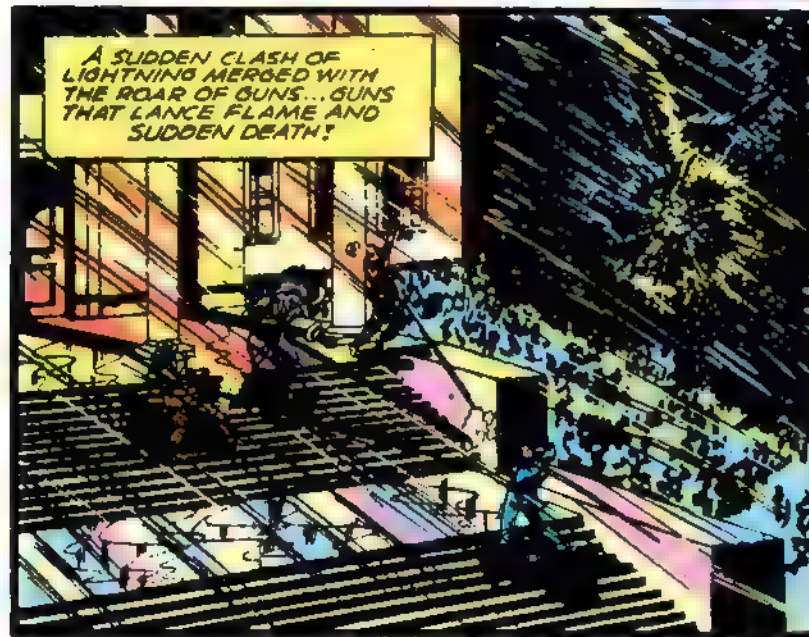


THEY SURE FIND OUT THEY COULDN'T HOLD YOU, BOSS? HAW, HAW!

THEY DIDN'T HAVE A THING ON ME, AND THEY KNEW IT?

BOSS. LOOK! IT'S MCS COY!

A SUDDEN CLASH OF LIGHTNING MERGED WITH THE ROAR OF GUNS... GUNS THAT LANCE FLAME AND SUDDEN DEATH!

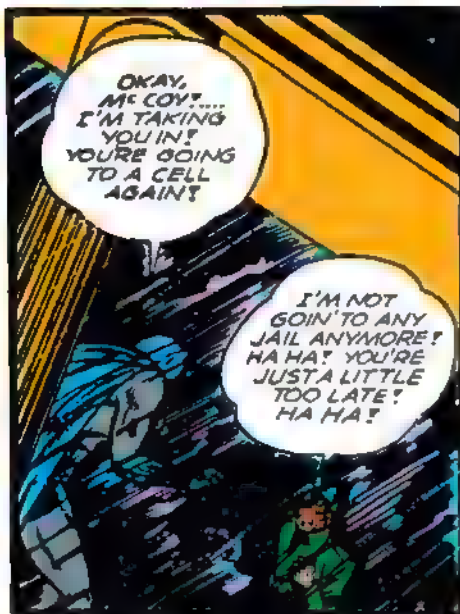


TWO CLOAKED FIGURES LEAP UP THE STEPS AND PUT AN END TO THE GUN-FIGHT!

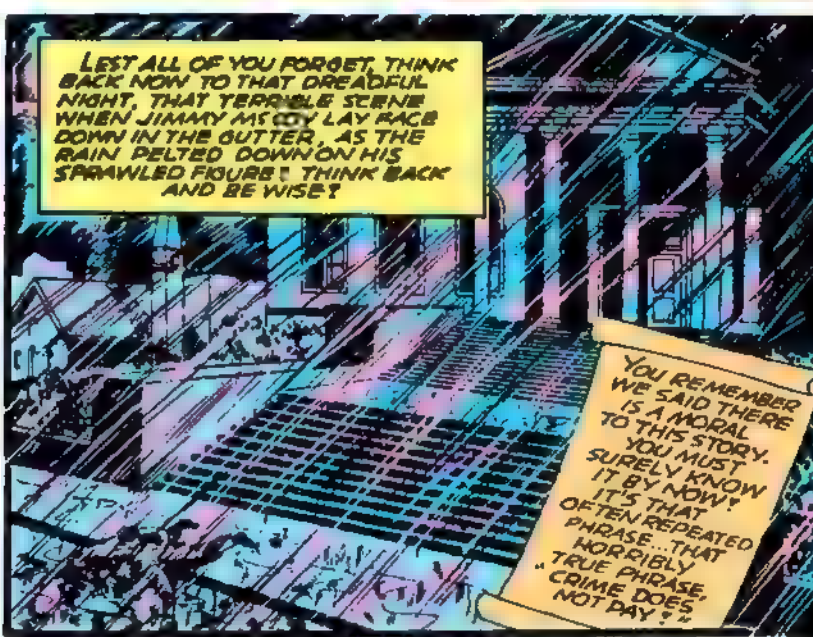
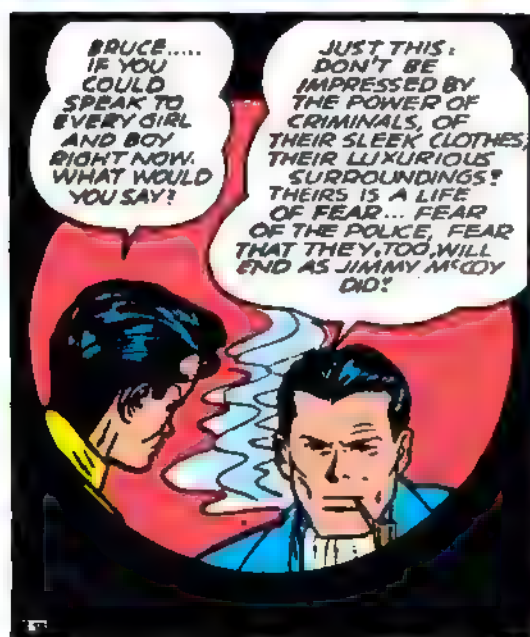
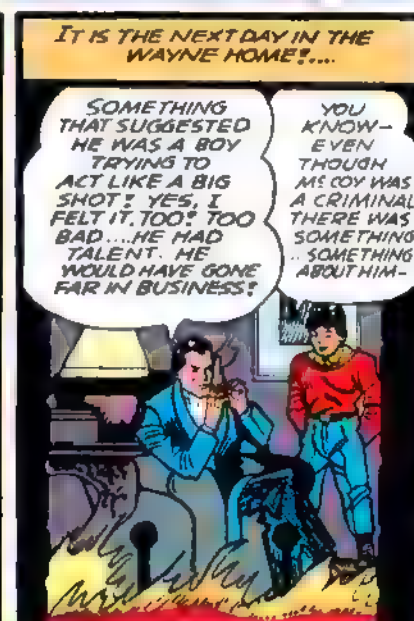
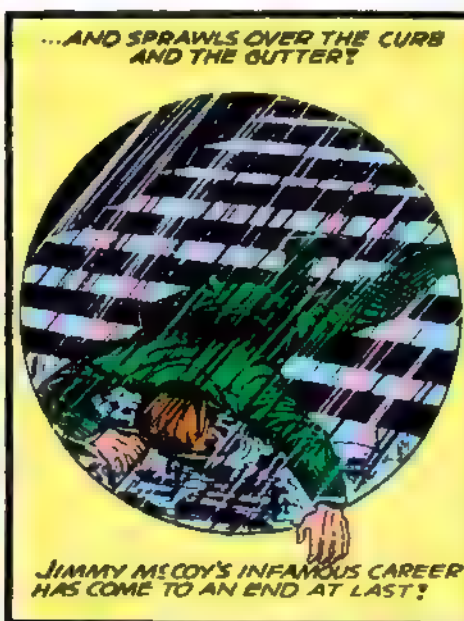
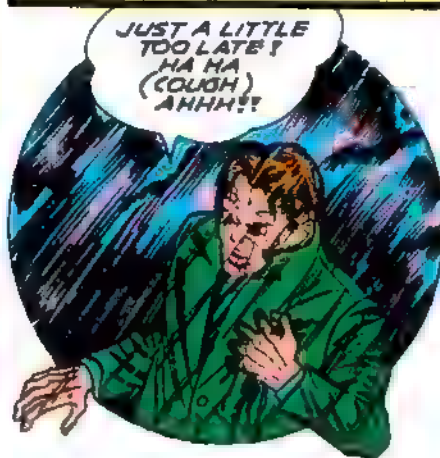


THAT'LL BE ENOUGH OF THAT!

LOOKS LIKE THE OTHER GUYS ARE ALL SHOT!



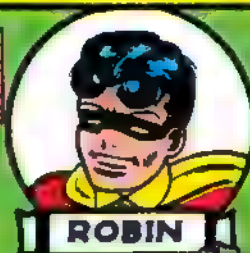
SUDDENLY, MCCOY'S LAUGHTER IS CHOKED OFF BY A RACKING COUGH... HE CLAWS CONVULSIVELY AT HIS CHEST...



BAT MAN

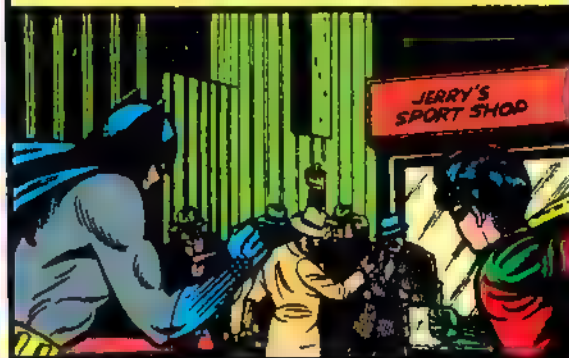
WITH
Robin
-THE BOY WONDER-

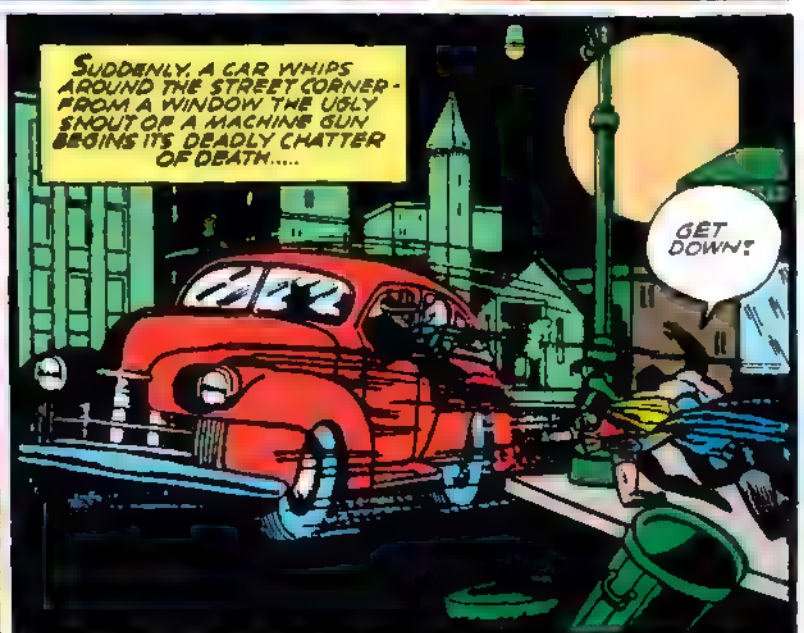
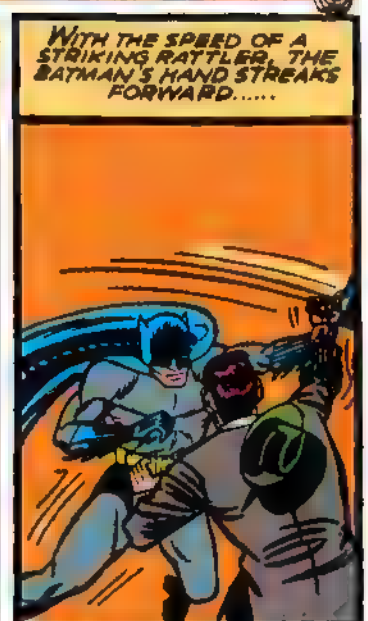
BOB
KANE

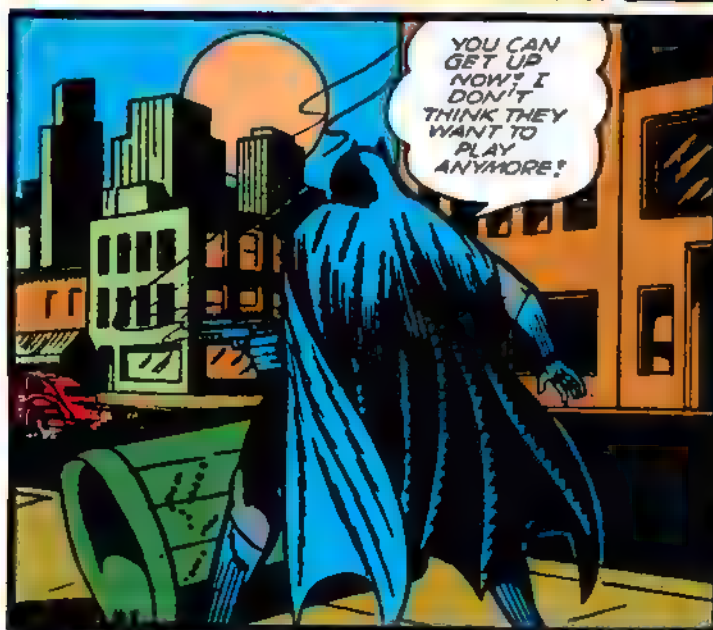
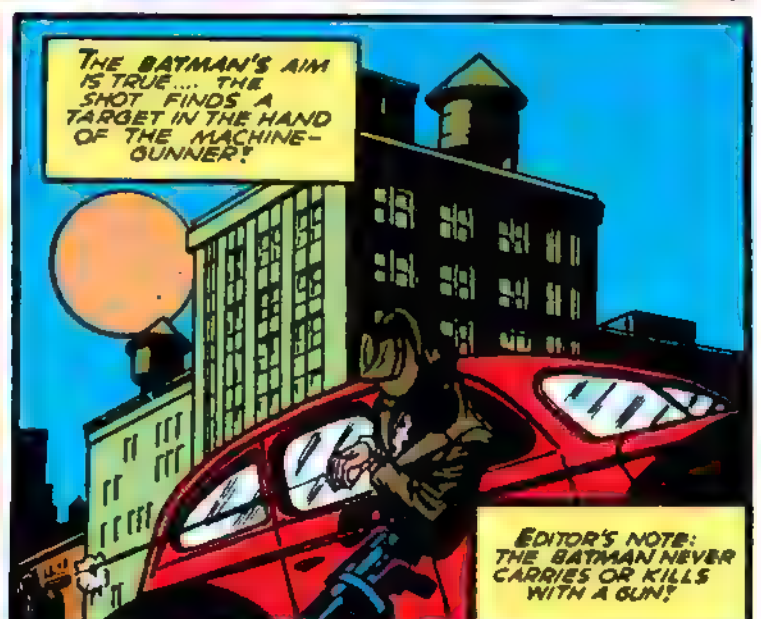
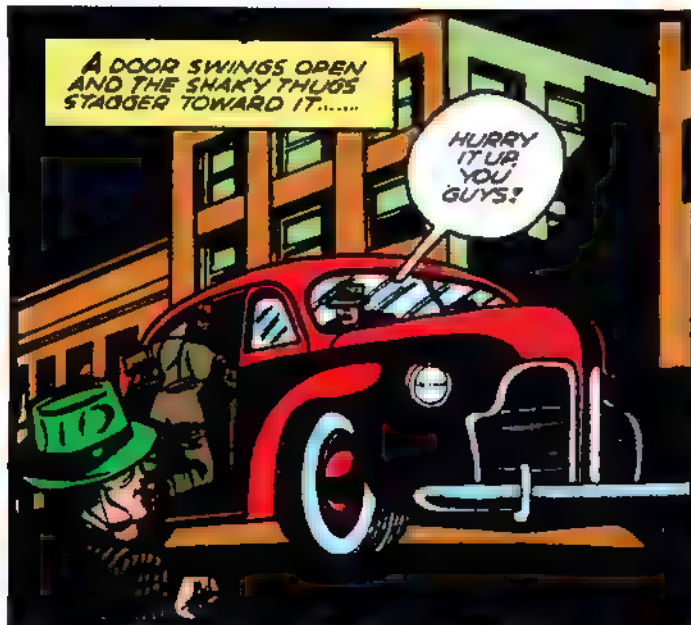


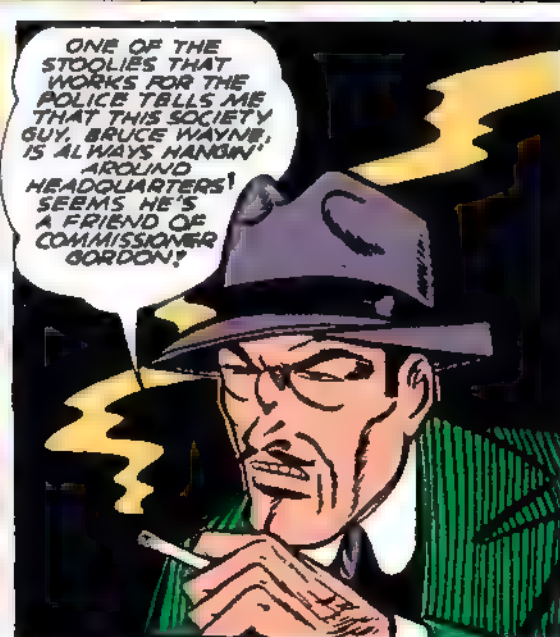
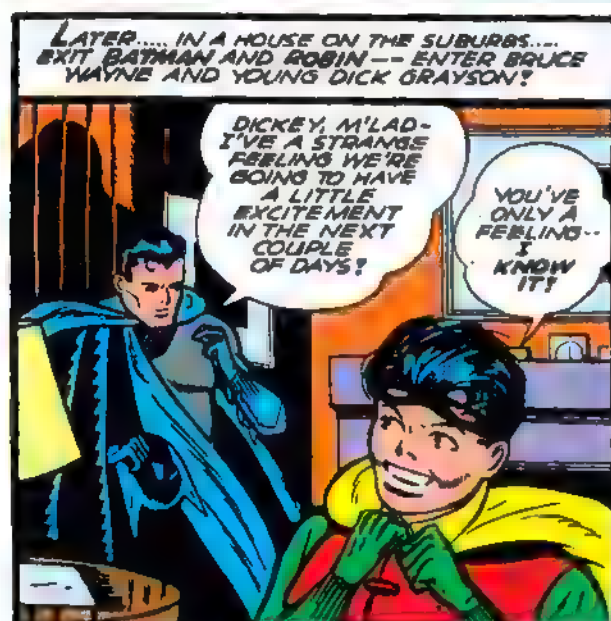
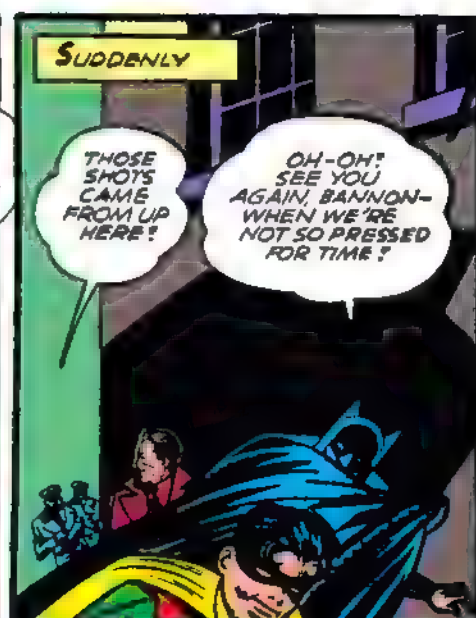
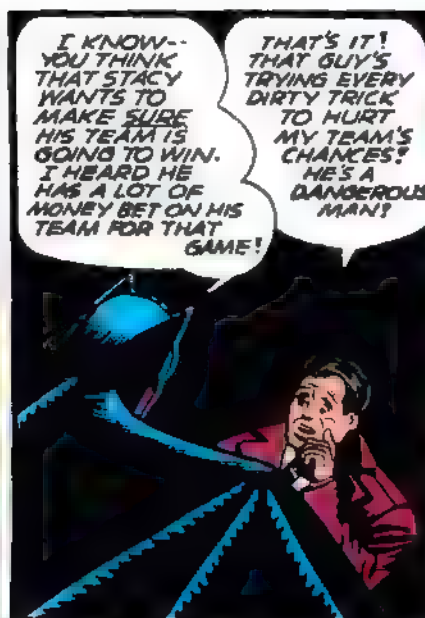
SUPERSLEUTH, ARCH-AVenger OF CRIME, FOE OF THE UNDERWORLD THIS IS THE BATMAN! A DARK-MANTLED FIGHTER WHO SEEMS TO DWELL IN NIGHT ITSELF AND WHOSE FAME AS A SCOURGE OF EVIL HAS BECOME ALMOST LEGENDARY. ASSISTING THE BATMAN IN HIS UNCEASING BATTLE AGAINST CRIME IS A BOY... NOT AN ORDINARY BOY... BUT ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER! LITTLE WONDER IT IS THEN THAT EVERY CAMPAIGN AGAINST CRIME HAS RESULTED IN COMPLETE VICTORY FOR THE DYNAMIC DUO!...

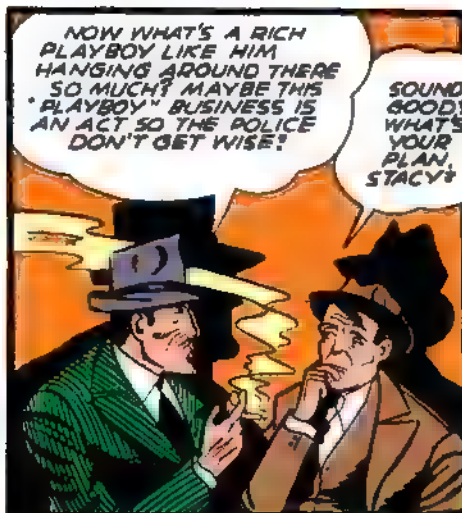
As a group of thugs attack a man, suddenly the air is split by a challenging cry, and whirling, the hoodlums see two dreadfully familiar figures racing toward them... IT IS BATMAN AND ROBIN THE BOY WONDER!...











NOW WHAT'S A RICH PLAYBOY LIKE HIM HANGING AROUND THERE SO MUCH? MAYBE THIS "PLAYBOY" BUSINESS IS AN ACT SO THE POLICE DON'T GET WISE?

SOUNDS GOOD! WHAT'S YOUR PLAN, STACY?

WITH THESE FEW WORDS, THE STAGE IS BEING SET FOR A TITANIC STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE BATMAN AND THE MINIONS OF CRIME? WHO WILL WIN? WILL THE BATMAN BE EXPOSED?



THE NEXT MORNING, BRUCE RECEIVES A PHONE CALL....

YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME! I KNOW YOU ARE THE BATMAN! I'M IN DANGER! THEY WANT TO KILL ME!

YES- THIS IS BRUCE WAYNE. WHO?



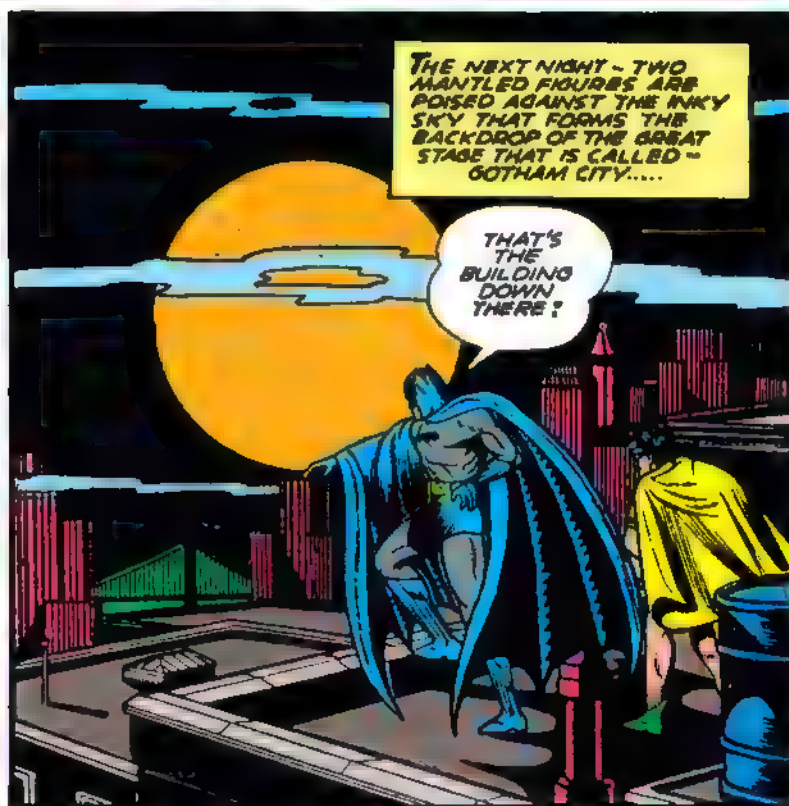
I LIVE AT 2255 GRAND STREET ON THE FOURTH FLOOR! DON'T FAIL TO COME THERE TOMORROW NIGHT AT TEN! CLICK?

WHA..? HELLO? HELLO?



HOW COULD ANYONE KNOW YOU'RE THE BATMAN?

I DON'T KNOW... BUT I'M GOING TO FIND OUT TOMORROW NIGHT AT TEN!



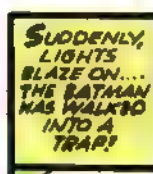
THE NEXT NIGHT - TWO MANTLED FIGURES ARE POISED AGAINST THE INKY SKY THAT FORMS THE BACKDROP OF THE GREAT STAGE THAT IS CALLED - GOTHAM CITY....

THAT'S THE BUILDING DOWN THERE!



MOMENTS LATER, THE BATMAN EASES HIS BODY THROUGH THE WINDOW OF THE BUILDING....

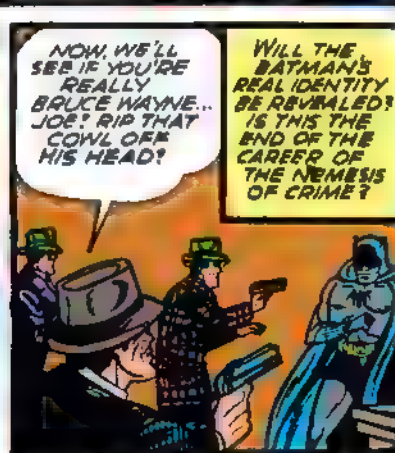
DARK? - FUNNY!



SUDDENLY, LIGHTS BLAZE ON... THE BATMAN HAS WALKED INTO A TRAP!

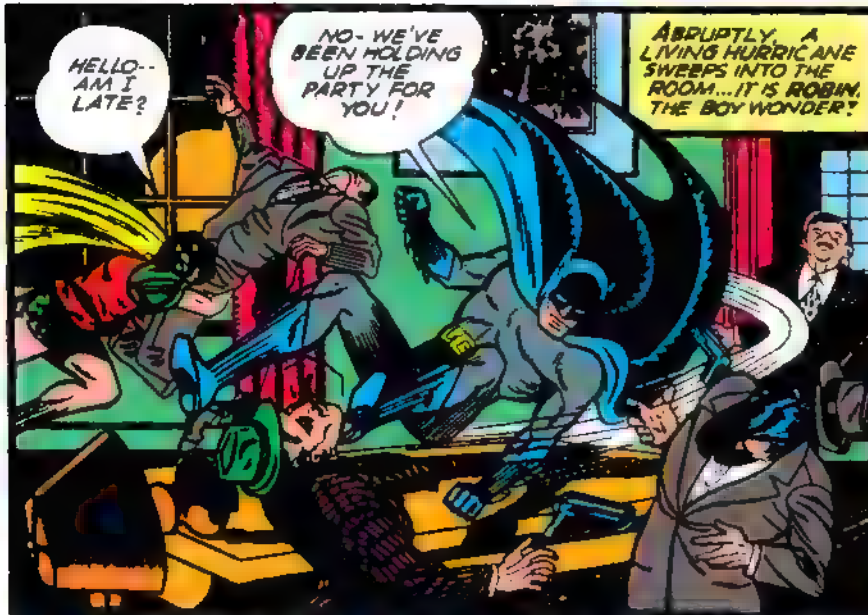


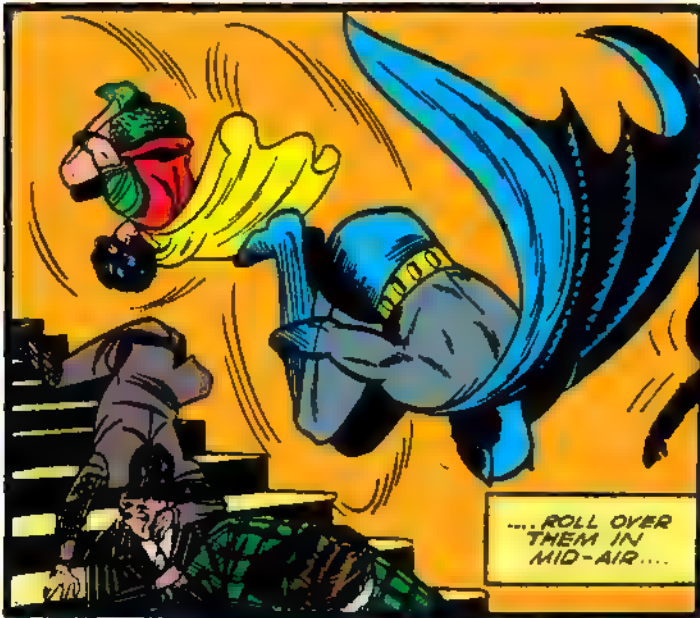
"COME INTO MY PARLOR, SAID THE SPIDER TO THE FLY?" APPROPRIATE, EH, BATMAN?



NOW, WE'LL SEE IF YOU'RE REALLY BRUCE WAYNE... JOE? RIP THAT COWL OFF HIS HEAD!

WILL THE BATMAN'S REAL IDENTITY BE REVEALED? IS THIS THE END OF THE CAREER OF THE NEMESIS OF CRIME?





....ROLL OVER THEM IN MID-AIR....



... AND LIKE TWO CANNONBALLS LEAVING THE MUZZLE OF A SPRING-GUN, THEY BOMBARD THE CREW OF THUGS MASSED AT THE BOTTOM OF THE STAIRS?



FOLLOW THEM? DON'T LET THEM GET AWAY?



LIKE TWO FOXES ELUDING THE HOWLING PACK, THE DYNAMIC DUO LEADS THE THUGS A MERRY CHASE?

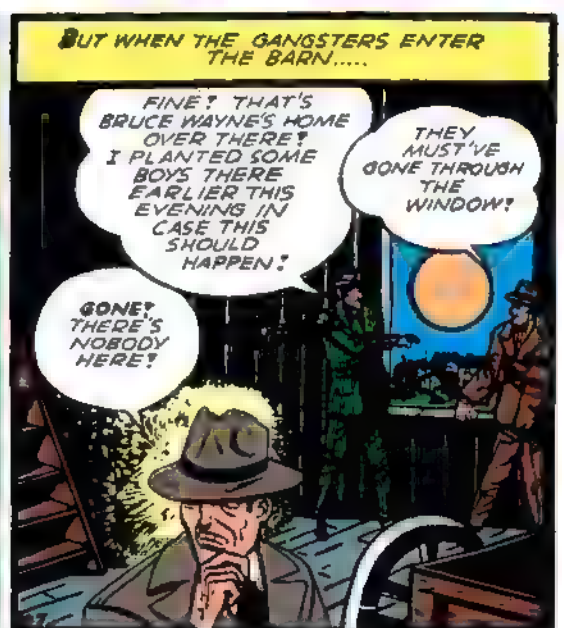
IF IT'S A CHASE THEY WANT, WE'LL GIVE IT TO THEM!



THERE THEY GO! -TOWARD THAT OLD BARN!

WE'VE GOT 'EM CORNERED - C'MON!

..... AFTER WHAT SEEMS HOURS TO THE WEARY GUNMEN, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN LEAD THEIR PURSUERS TO AN OPEN FIELD AT THE EDGE OF TOWN....

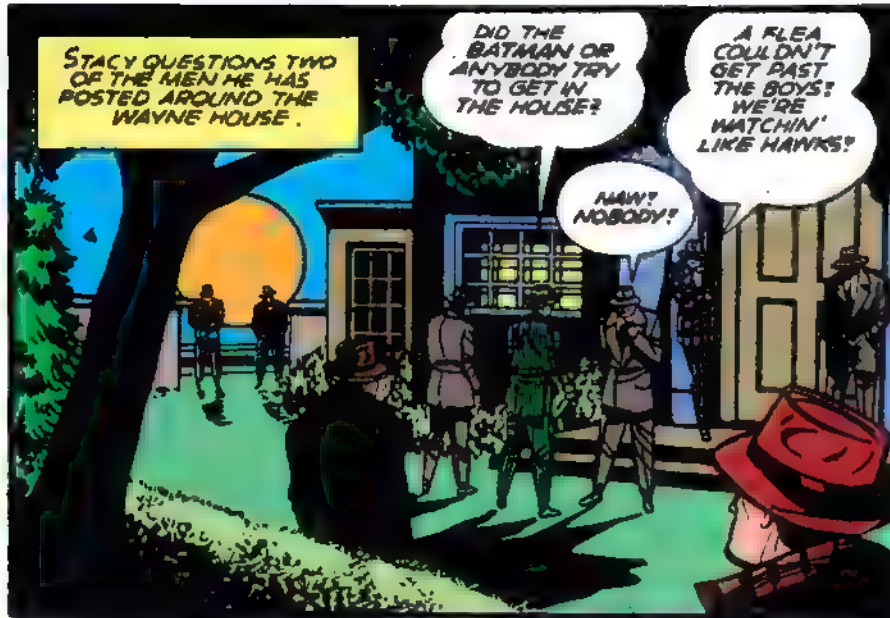


BUT WHEN THE GANGSTERS ENTER THE BARN.....

FINE? THAT'S BRUCE WAYNE'S HOME OVER THERE? I PLANTED SOME BOYS THERE EARLIER THIS EVENING IN CASE THIS SHOULD HAPPEN!

THEY MUST'VE GONE THROUGH THE WINDOW!

GONE? THERE'S NOBODY HERE!

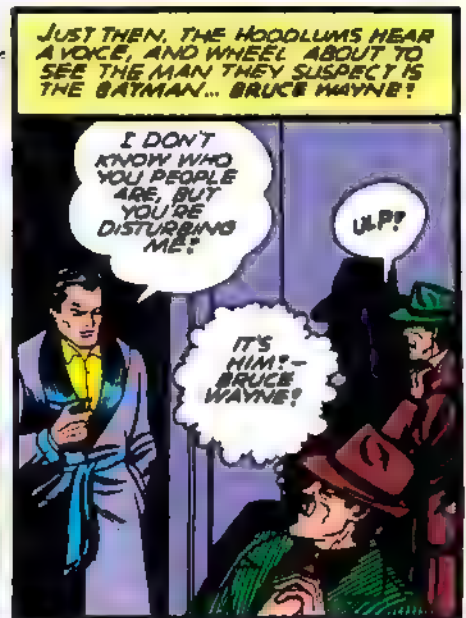


STACY QUESTIONS TWO OF THE MEN HE HAS POSTED AROUND THE WAYNE HOUSE.

DID THE BATMAN OR ANYBODY TRY TO GET IN THE HOUSE?

A FLEA COULDN'T GET PAST THE BOYS! WE'RE WATCHIN' LIKE HAWKS!

NAW! NOBODY!

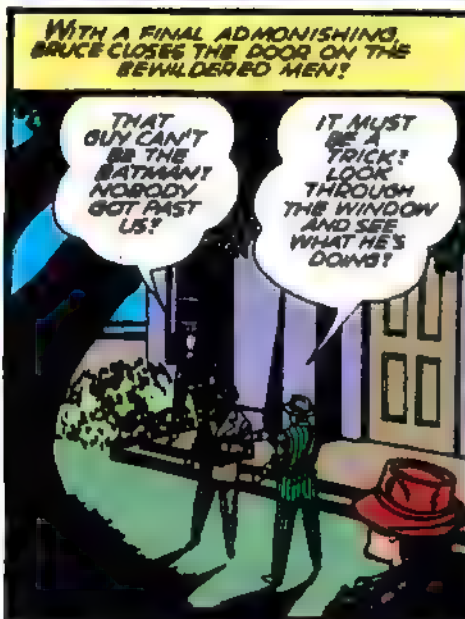


JUST THEN, THE HOODLUMS HEAR A VOICE, AND WHEEL ABOUT TO SEE THE MAN THEY SUSPECT IS THE BATMAN... BRUCE WAYNE!

I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU PEOPLE ARE, BUT YOU'RE DISTURBING ME!

ULP?

IT'S HIM! - BRUCE WAYNE!



WITH A FINAL ADMONISHING, BRUCE CLOSES THE DOOR ON THE BEWILDERED MEN!

THAT GUY CAN'T BE THE BATMAN! NOBODY GOT PAST US!

IT MUST BE A TRICK! LOOK THROUGH THE WINDOW AND SEE WHAT HE'S DOING!



WHAT THE MEN SEE WHEN THEY PEER THROUGH THE WINDOW.

THAT'S HIM! LET'S WATCH HIM AWHILE...

YEAH? HE'S READIN' A BOOK

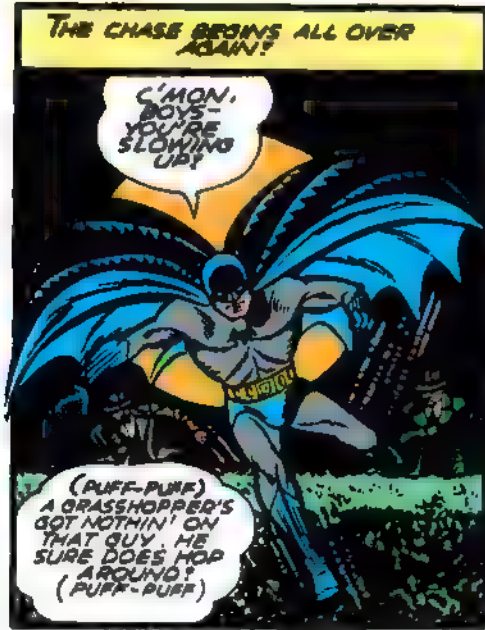


SO, THE MEN WATCH FOR A FEW MINUTES..... WHEN SUDDENLY...

HYA BOYS! LOOKING FOR ME?

ULP! THEN THIS WAYNE GUY CAN'T BE HIM? HE'S STILL SITTING IN THE CHAIR READIN' A BOOK!

THE BATMAN?



THE CHASE BEGINS ALL OVER AGAIN!

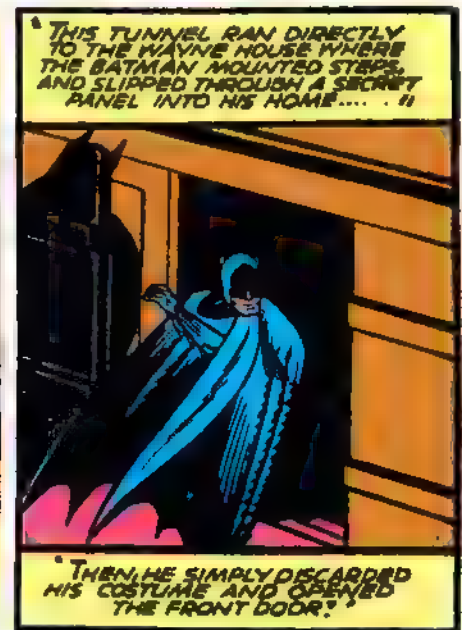
C'MON, BOYS - YOU'RE SLOWING UP!

(PUFF-PUFF) A GRASSHOPPER'S GOT NOTHIN' ON THAT GUY. HE SURE DOES HOP AROUND! (PUFF-PUFF)



PREFABLY YOU ARE WONDERING NOW THE BATMAN MANAGED TO GET INTO THE HOUSE WITHOUT BEING SEEN BY THE THUGS?... IT'S ALL VERY SIMPLE..... "

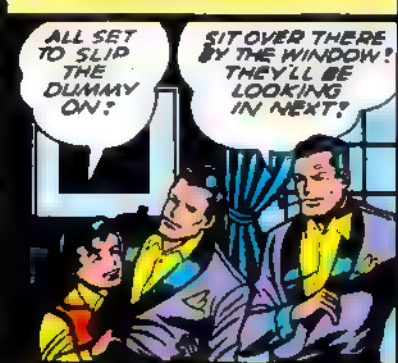
WHEN THE BATMAN DARTED INTO THE BARN, HE RAISED A CLEVERLY HIDDEN TRAPDOOR WHICH LEADS TO A TUNNEL BELOW..... "



THIS TUNNEL RAN DIRECTLY TO THE WAYNE HOUSE WHERE THE BATMAN MOUNTED STEPS, AND SLIPPED THROUGH A SECRET PANEL INTO HIS HOME..... "

THEN, HE SIMPLY DISCARDED HIS COSTUME AND OPENED THE FRONT DOOR.

"... AND PERHAPS YOU WONDER HOW THE BATMAN MANAGED TO APPEAR TO LEAD THE THUGS ANOTHER HERRY CHASE - WHEN HE WAS APPARENTLY READING A BOOK AS BRUCE WAYNE.... "



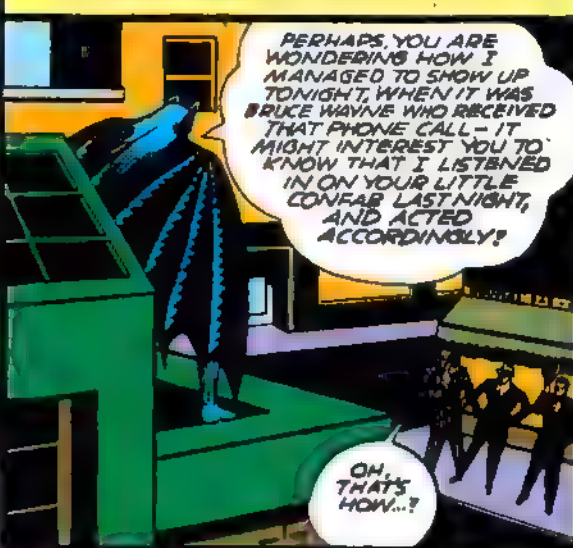
" EXPLANATION... AN ESPECIALLY CONSTRUCTED LIFE-LIKE DUMMY WHICH IS SLIPPED OVER ROBIN'S FORM... "

"... AND WHEN ROBIN WORKS HIS HANDS IN THE SLEEVES, IT SEEMS TO THE OBSERVER TO BE THE ACTIONS OF BRUCE WAYNE HIMSELF? "



" WHILE ROBIN MANIPULATED THE DUMMY, BRUCE SLIPPED ON HIS COSTUME AND RACED THROUGH THE TUNNEL AND OUT IN THE NIGHT? "

MEANWHILE, THE ELUSIVE BATMAN THROWS A PARTING WORD AT STACY AND HIS THUGS.



PERHAPS, YOU ARE WONDERING HOW I MANAGED TO SHOW UP TONIGHT, WHEN IT WAS BRUCE WAYNE WHO RECEIVED THAT PHONE CALL - IT MIGHT INTEREST YOU TO KNOW THAT I LISTENED IN ON YOUR LITTLE CONFAB LAST NIGHT, AND ACTED ACCORDINGLY!

OH, THAT'S HOW...?

THAT VERY NIGHT, STACY AND HIS MEN ARE WEARY AND FOOTSORE AFTER A FUTILE EFFORT TO CATCH THE BATMAN?



WELL, STACY, ARE YA CONVINCED NOW THAT BRUCE WAYNE AIN'T THE BATMAN?

YEAH-YEAH? - BUT THAT ISN'T GOING TO STOP ME FROM GOING AHEAD WITH MY PLANS! I'VE GOT TOO MUCH MONEY BET TO STOP NOW!

OKAY? WE KNOW WHAT TO DO!

THE MORNING OF THE BIG GAME....

WHAT'S THE IDEA OF SLIPPING OVER TO SEE STOCKTON, THE STAR QUARTERBACK OF THE PANTHERS?



JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT STACY'S MEN HAVEN'T INTIMIDATED HIM - THREATENED TO HURT HIM UNLESS HE FUMBLES A FEW PLAYS!

BUT WHEN THEY STEP INSIDE ..



BARTON? STOCKTON'S ROOM-MATE... STABBED TO DEATH!...

AND STOCKTON'S NOT AROUND? THEY'VE KIDNAPPED HIM? STACY'S MEN HAVE KIDNAPPED HIM TO KEEP HIM FROM PLAYING!

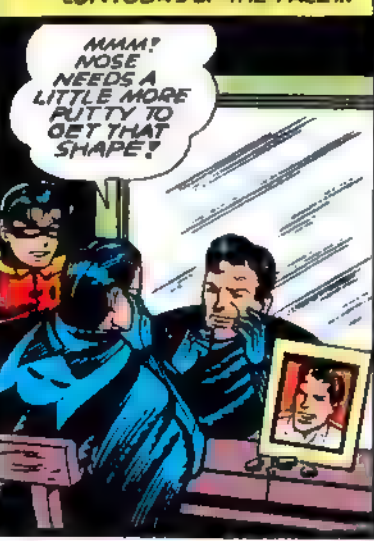
SEATING HIMSELF BEFORE A MIRROR, THE BATMAN PROPS UP A PICTURE OF THE KIDNAPPED STAR.



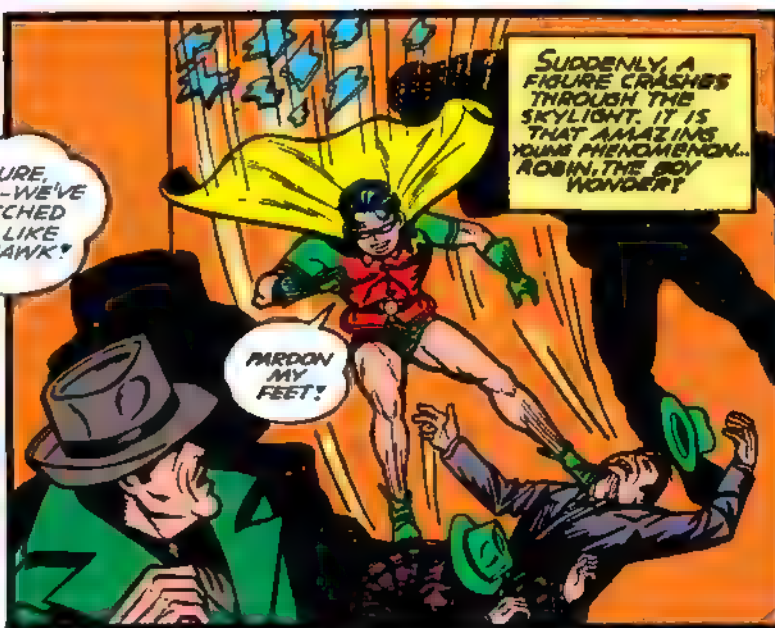
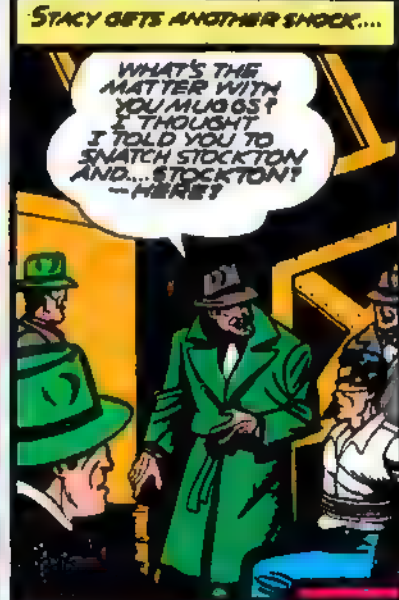
SAY - - WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

STOCKTON'S MY HEIGHT AND ABOUT MY BUILD. I THINK IT WILL WORK?

DEFT FINGERS APPLY MAKEUP FROM THE UTILITY BELT... SLOWLY MOULD AND CHANGE THE CONTOURS OF THE FACE...



MMM? NOSE NEEDS A LITTLE MORE PUTTY TO GET THAT SHAPE?





ROBIN FREES STOCKTON...

DON'T TELL ME A KID LIKE YOU TOOK CARE OF THESE TOUGHS?!



ROBIN TELLS STOCKTON HOW THE BATMAN HAS TAKEN HIS PLACE AT THE BIG GAME..

TOOK MY PLACE?..I'LL BET HE'S FUMBLING EVERY PLAY! I BETTER GET BACK THERE AND STOP HIM IN TIME!

YOU GO THERE ALONE. I WANT TO DELIVER THESE MUGGS TO JAIL. ONE OF THEM IS GUILTY OF THE MURDER OF YOUR ROOM-MATE!



MEANWHILE AT THE STADIUM, THE TWO TEAMS HAVE BEEN BATTLING, WITH EITHER SIDE FAILING TO SCORE



THE RIVAL TEAM GETS THE BALL.... THE PLAY IS PUT INTO ACTION.... THE QUARTERBACK THROWS A LONG PASS TO AN END.....



.... BUT A MAN SUDDENLY LEAPS UP AND LITERALLY PLUCKS IT FROM HIS HANDS..... IT IS THE BATMAN..... "STOCKTON"

..... A STIFF STRAIGHT ARM TAKES CARE OF THE END.....

SORRY, BUDDY- I'VE GOT A DATE WITH THE GOAL POSTS?



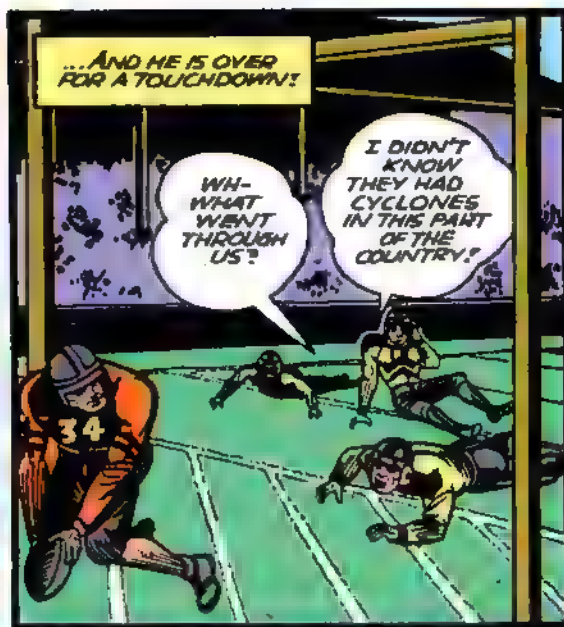
..... DOWN THE FIELD STREAKS THE BATMAN, WEAVING IN AND OUT OF THE OPPOSITION IN A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF BROKEN FIELD RUNNING.....

HAVEN'T DONE THIS SINCE MY COLLEGE DAYS?





AS THREE OF THE OPPOSITION CLOSE IN ON HIM AT THE GOAL, THE BATMAN'S POWERFUL FRAME SLAMS INTO THEM LIKE A BATTERING RAM.



...AND HE IS OVER FOR A TOUCHDOWN!

WH-WHAT WENT THROUGH US?

I DIDN'T KNOW THEY HAD CYCLONES IN THIS PART OF THE COUNTRY!



THE BATMAN'S KICK FOR THE EXTRA POINT IS GOOD! THE PANTHERS LEAD 7 TO 0!



....AT THAT MOMENT, THE REAL STOCKTON ENTERS THE STADIUM TO HEAR CHEER AFTER CHEER FOR HIS BRILLIANT PERFORMANCE ON THE FIELD...

SAY - I MUST HAVE DONE ALL RIGHT?... THAT IS - I MEAN - HE DID ALL RIGHT!



AT THE END OF THE HALF, THE BATMAN MEETS STOCKTON IN A SECLUDED CORNER....

G-GOSH! YOU'RE MORE LIKE ME THAN I AM MYSELF!

NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE, YOU CAN GO OUT AND DO YOUR OWN PLAYING!



THEY CHANGE CLOTHES.....

I - I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING!

FORGET IT! I LIKE TO KEEP MY SPORTS CLEAN AND HONEST! NOW GO OUT THERE AND PLAY!



STOCKTON GOES ONTO THE FIELD AND PLAYS LIKE A MAN INSPIRED!



WHILE UP IN THE STANDS TWO FIGURES WATCH WITH INTEREST.... THEY ARE BRUCE WAYNE AND YOUNG DICK GRAYSON.....

NICE GAME, EH, BRUCE?

NOT BAD - NOT BAD AT ALL!



The BATMAN

No. 48



FEB.

Detective COMICS



BAT MAN

WITH
Robin
THE BOY WONDER

BY



WHEN CRIMINALS
PLOT TO ROB
THE GREAT
VAULT HOUSING
THE NATION'S
GOLD RESERVE,
THEN IT IS THAT
THE CLOAKED
BATMAN AND
YOUNG, LAUGHING
ROBIN THE BOY
WONDER, STEP
IN TO NULLIFY
CRIME'S THRUST
AND DRAW BACK
THE CURTAIN
THAT VEILS
THE MYSTERY OF
THE SECRET CAVERN

OUR STORY BEGINS IN KENTUCKY, WHEN
A MAN IDLY ROWING ON A STREAM,
SUDDENLY DRIFTS INTO A GASH IN THE
SIDE OF A MOUNTAIN...

WONDER
WHERE THIS
LEADS
TO!



THE MAN IS STUNNED BY THE VASTNESS AND STRANGENESS OF THE WORLD HE HAS ENTERED INTO.....

WHA...? A CAVERN... A GREAT LIMESTONE CAVERN?



AS HE ROWS, THE GREAT NATURAL WONDERS STRETCH BEFORE HIM MILE UPON MILE.....

I'VE DISCOVERED IT! I'VE DISCOVERED A LIMESTONE CHAMBER THAT IS EVEN GREATER THAN THE MAMMOTH CAVE OR THE CARLSBAD CAVERN! IT'S MAGNIFICENT!



TAKING OUT HIS SURVEYING INSTRUMENTS, THE MAN STEPS ON THE CAVE'S FLOOR, AND SOON HAS MORE CAUSE FOR EXCITEMENT.

WHY... FROM MY CALCULATIONS, THIS CAVERN PASSES DIRECTLY UNDER THE GREAT GOLD TREASURY VAULT OF FORT STOK?



WHEN THE MAN GETS BACK TO TOWN, HE CAN HARDLY CONTROL HIS EXCITEMENT..

IF I DON'T TELL SOMEONE, I'LL BUST! LISTEN TO ME, MEN.....

WHAT'S GOT YOU ALL HOPPED UP, MISTER?



HE TELLS OF HIS GREAT DISCOVERY.....

SO YOU FOUND A BIG LIMESTONE CAVE? SO WHAT?

BUT IT GOES DIRECTLY BENEATH THE GOVERNMENT GOLD VAULT AT FORT STOK?



WHAT?... THE GOLD VAULT?... ARE YOU KIDDIN'?

SAY, WHEREABOUTS IS THIS PLACE, MISTER?

AH-I-ER-DOUBT IF I CAN FIND IT AGAIN! AH- GOOD DAY!

AT THE GLITTER OF GREED IN THE STRANGERS' EYES, THE MAN REALIZES THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HIS DISCOVERY.....



HE SHUT UP LIKE A CLAM! HE KNOWS WHERE THAT PLACE IS?

GOOD THING WE DECIDED TO COME TO THIS BURG TO HIDE OUT FROM THE COPS?

YEAH- LOOKS LIKE WE STUMBLED ONTO SOMETHING BIG!



THE CRIMINALS FIND OUT THE MAN, HENRY LEWIS, IS ROUGHING IT ALONE IN A LOG CABIN IN THE WOODS AND... THE NEXT MORNING.....

WHA..... WHAT IS THIS?

TAKE IT EASY, LEWIS! WE DECIDED TO SEE IF WE COULD PERSUADE YA TO TELL US WHERE THE OPENING TO THE CAVE IS!

WHEN LEWIS REFUSES, HE IS BEATEN. TORTURED.... BUT HE STOUTLY MAINTAINS HIS SILENCE...

HE'S OUT AGAIN? I WONDER IF HE'D TALK IF WE PROMISED TO GIVE HIM A SHARE OF THE HAUL?

NAW! THIS GUY IS A MILLIONAIRE. HIS HOBBY IS SURVEYIN'. HE'S WORTH PLENTY!

SAY, AIN'T THIS GUY LEWIS GOT A KID NAMED LINDA SINGIN' IN RENALDO'S TOP HAT CLUB?

YE-AN? THEY BILL HER AS A SOCIETY SINGER?

SAY-IT OUGHTA BE A CINCH FOR US TO COOK UP A WAY FOR LEWIS TALK NOW!

TWO NIGHTS LATER... GOTHAM CITY... IN A PRIVATE OFFICE OF THE TOP HAT CLUB.

LISTEN, RENALDO.... THIS CLUB OF YOURS AIN'T DOING SO HOT. NOW, HOW WOULD YOU LIKE A CHANCE TO MAKE SOME DOUGH-BIG DOUGH?

YOU INTEREST ME STRANGELY, NICK.... KEEP TALKING!

LATER THAT EVENING... AS LINDA LEWIS WALKS TO THE BAND PLATFORM, SHE STOPS FOR A WORD WITH A WEALTHY, SOCIETY PLAYBOY NAMED BRUCE WAYNE...

HOW ABOUT A MOVIE AFTER YOU FINISH YOUR NUMBER, LINDA?

ALL RIGHT, BRUCE. WAIT FOR ME!

...AND LATER WHEN SHE HAS FINISHED, AND HAS CHANGED CLOTHING.... SUDDENLY...

WHO..?

I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU! COME WITH ME!

WITH THE INSTINCT FOR SELF PRESERVATION STRONG, THE GIRL DIPS HER HAND IN HER DRESSER DRAWER AND BRINGS OUT A SMALL PEARL-HANDLED REVOLVER...

YOU'RE MAD! STAY AWAY FROM ME! STAY AWAY OR I'LL SHOOT!

COME WITH ME!

AS THE MAN NEARS HER LINDA AUTOMATICALLY PULLS THE TRIGGERTHERE IS A SHOT!

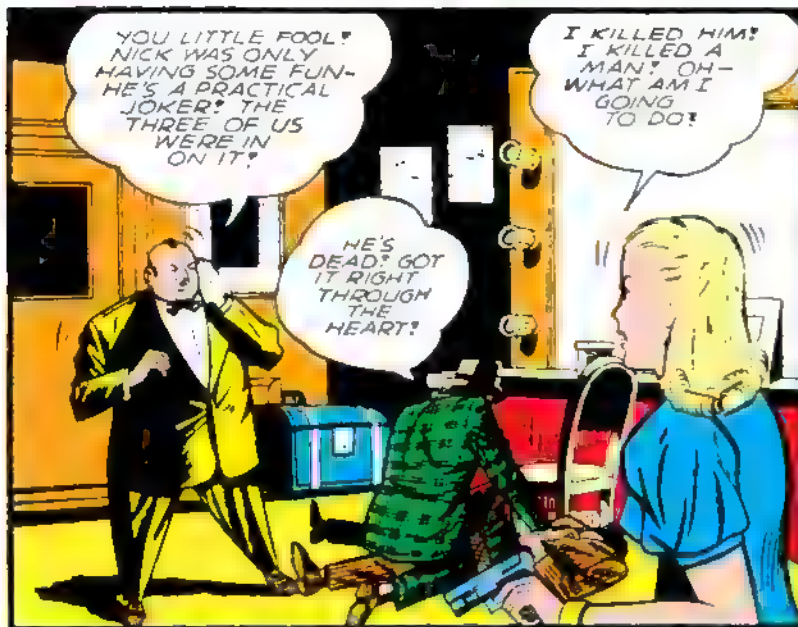
I-I WAS ONLY FOOLING! YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE... OHHH?

THE DOOR IS THRUST OPEN....

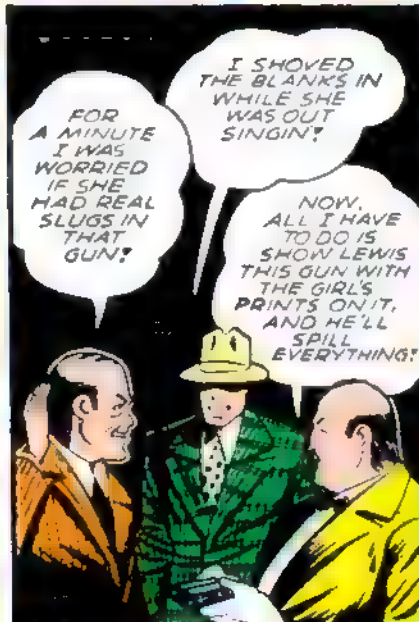
THAT SHOT?.. NICK?

I DIDN'T MEAN TO - HE... HE WAS CRAZY! HE WOULD HAVE KILLED ME!

SHE SHOT HIM?



BLINDLY, THE DISTRACTED, BEWILDERED GIRL FOLLOWS INSTRUCTIONS... AND WHEN SHE LEAVES....

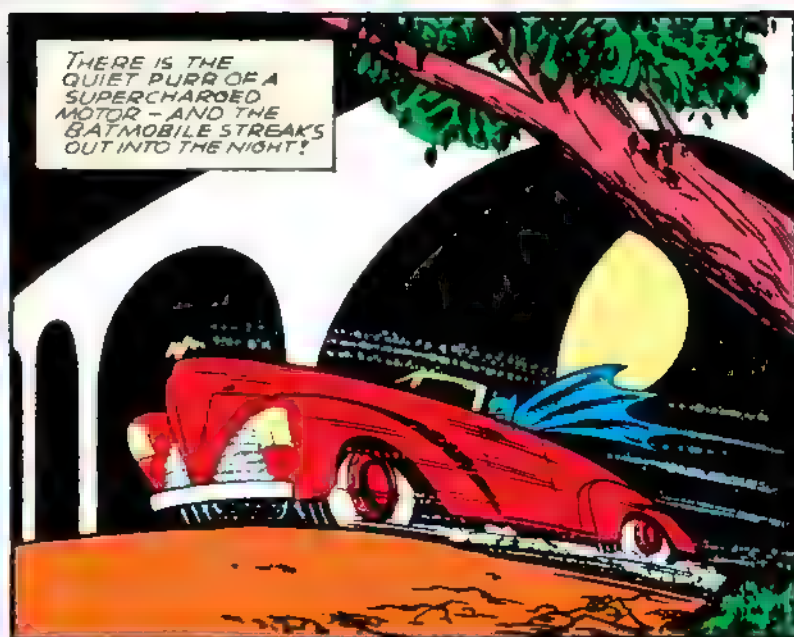
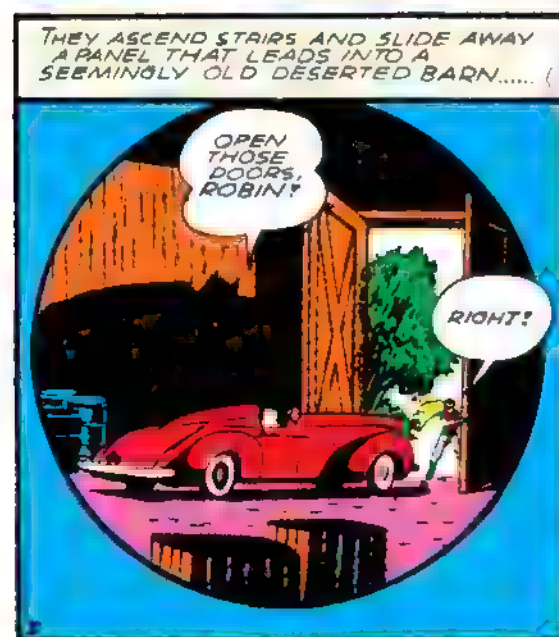
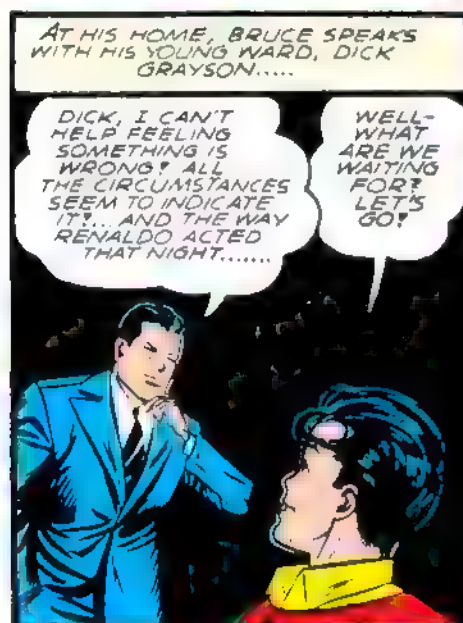
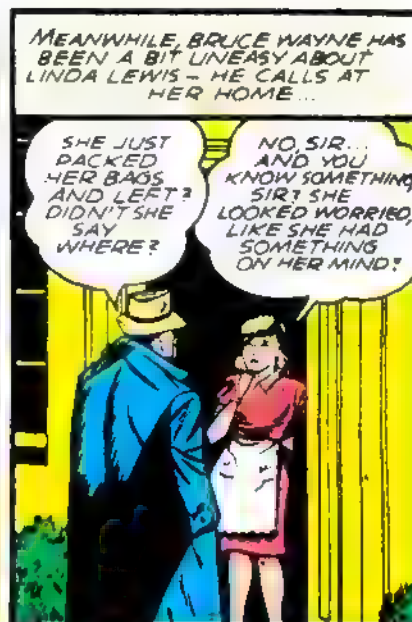
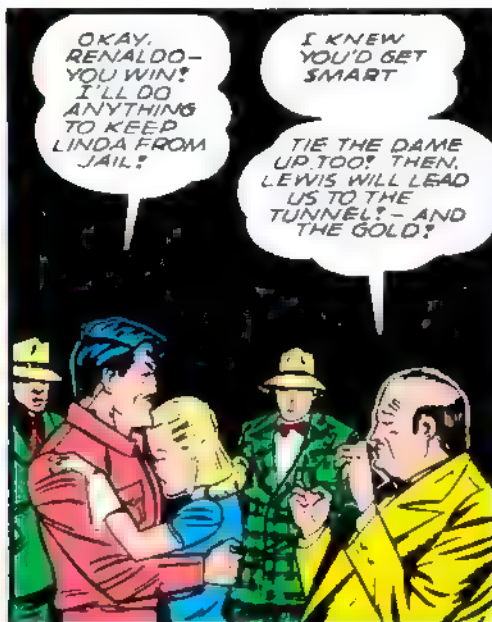
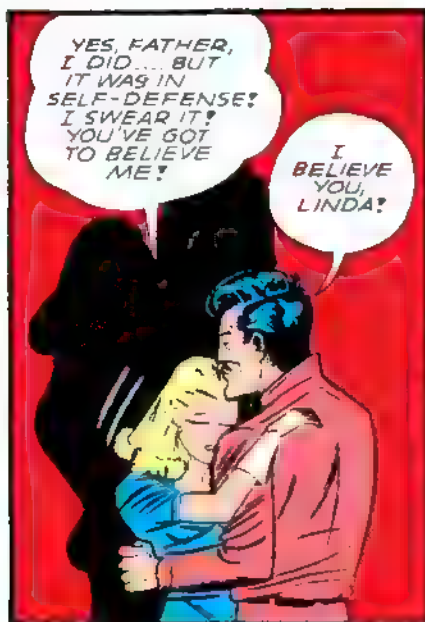


AFTER WAITING IN VAIN FOR LINDA, BRUCE WAYNE QUESTIONS RENALDO....

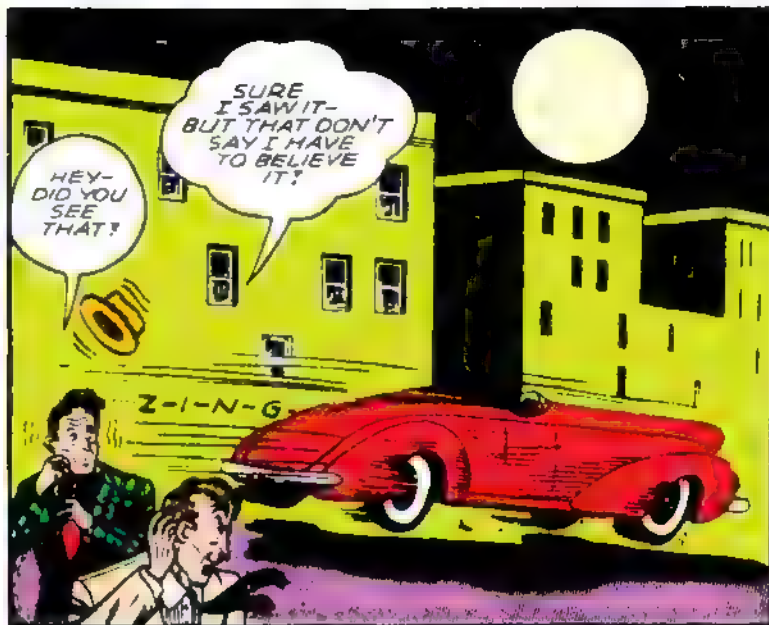
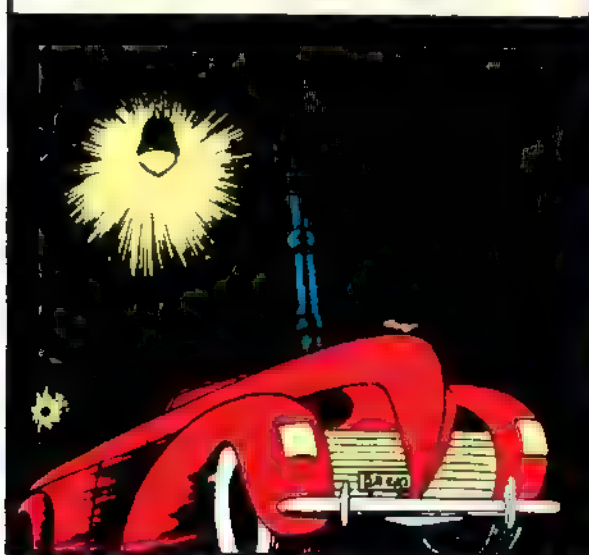


WHEN LINDA REACHES HER FATHER'S SECLUDED CABIN....





THE BATMOBILE FLASHES THROUGH THE STREETS WITH BULLET SPEED....



HEY-
DID YOU
SEE
THAT?

SURE
I SAW IT-
BUT THAT DON'T
SAY I HAVE
TO BELIEVE
IT?

Z-I-N-G

THE CAR COMES TO A STOP IN THE BACK ALLEY OF RENALDO'S APARTMENT HOUSE.....



THAT'S
RENALDO'S
APARTMENT.
YOU STAY
HERE. I'LL
CALL YOU
IF I
NEED
HELP!

SWIFTLY AND
NOISELESSLY, THE
BATMAN MOVES
UP THE FIRE
ESCAPE!



YEAH, NICK-
RENALDO
IS DOWN
IN KENTUCKY,
TAKIN' CARE
O' LINDA
LEWIS AND HER
OLD MAN? YOU
STAY HID - REMEMBER,
YOU'RE SUPPOSED
TO BE DEAD?

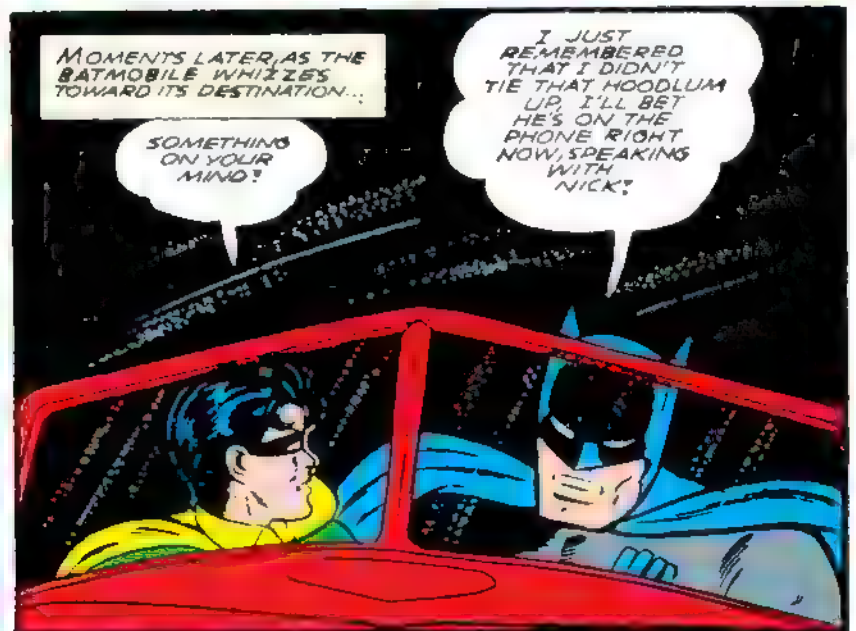


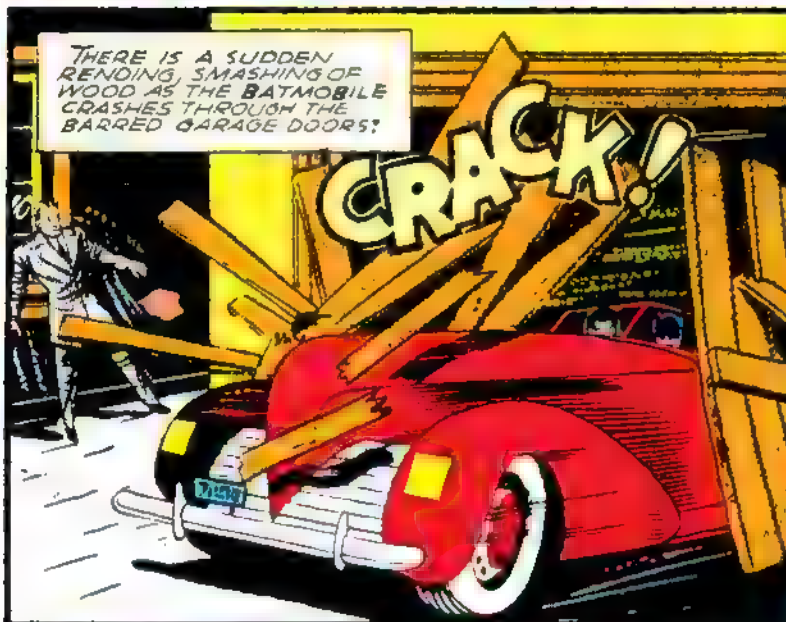
AS THE BODYGUARD
HANDS UP, A
SHADOW SEEMS
TO CREEP ALONG
THE FLOOR...

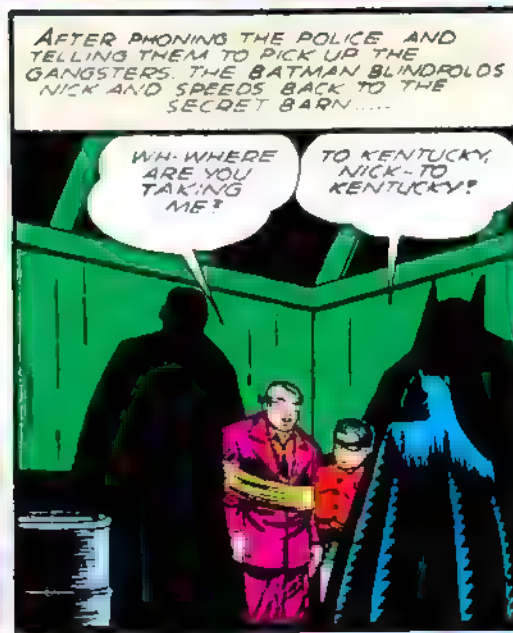
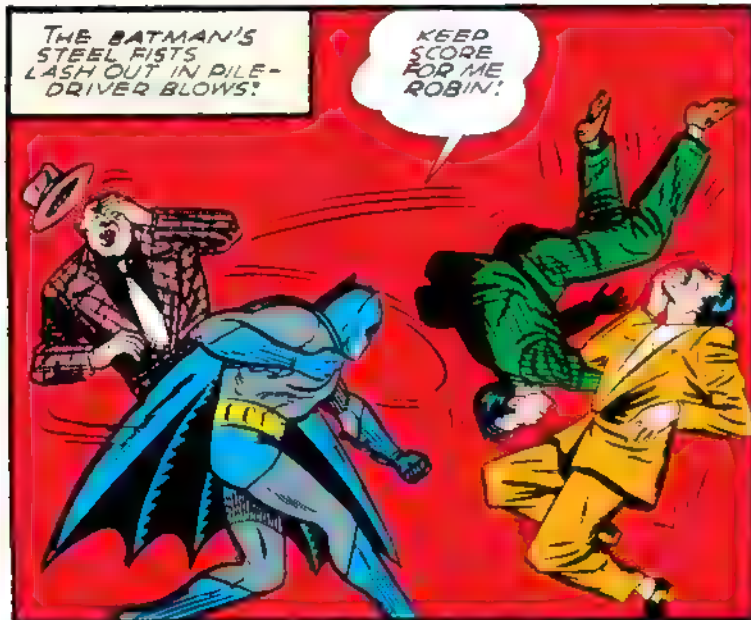
HUH?
THAT
SHADOW-
LIKE A
BAT-
THE
BATMAN?
HE'S
HERE?

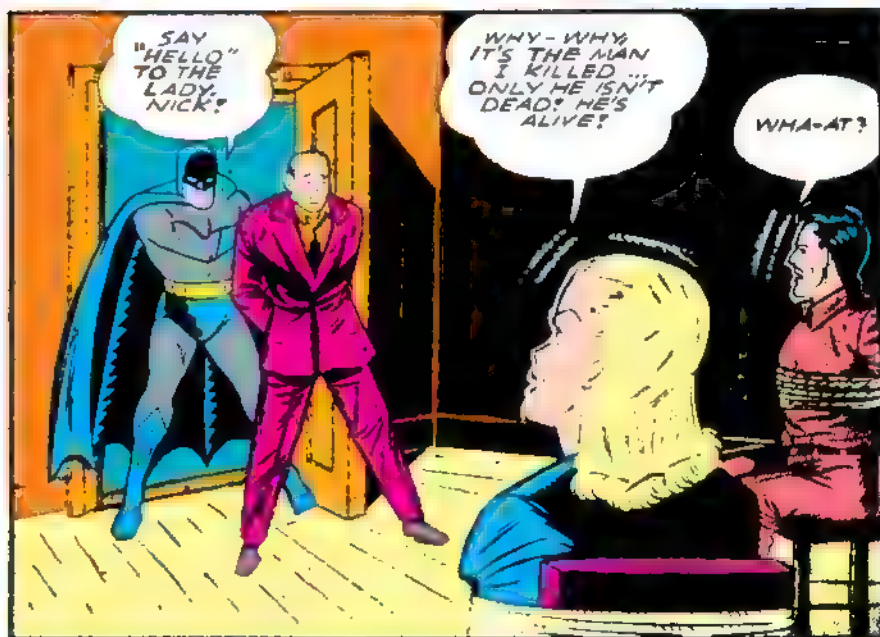


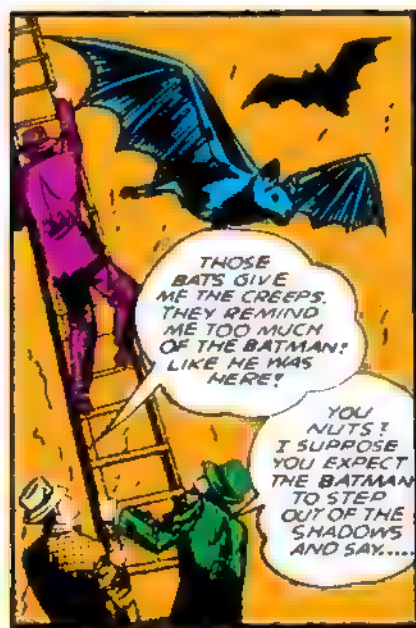
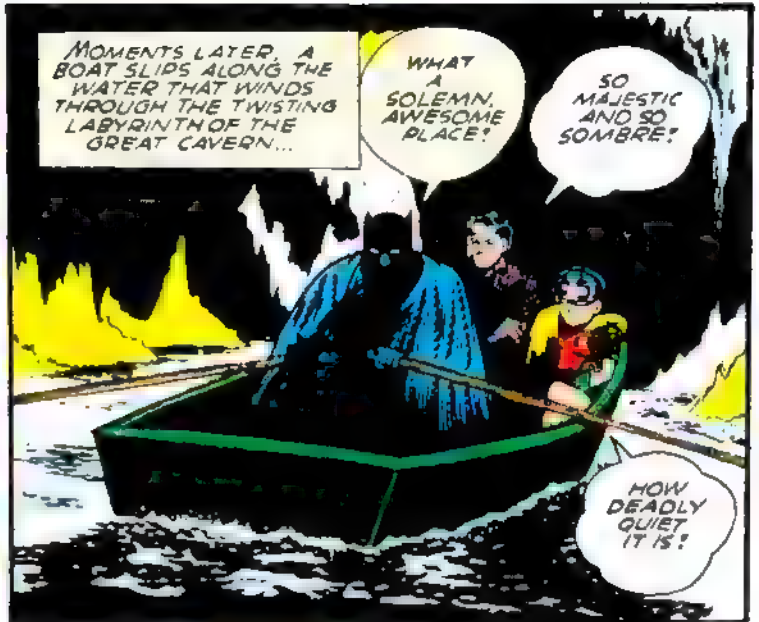
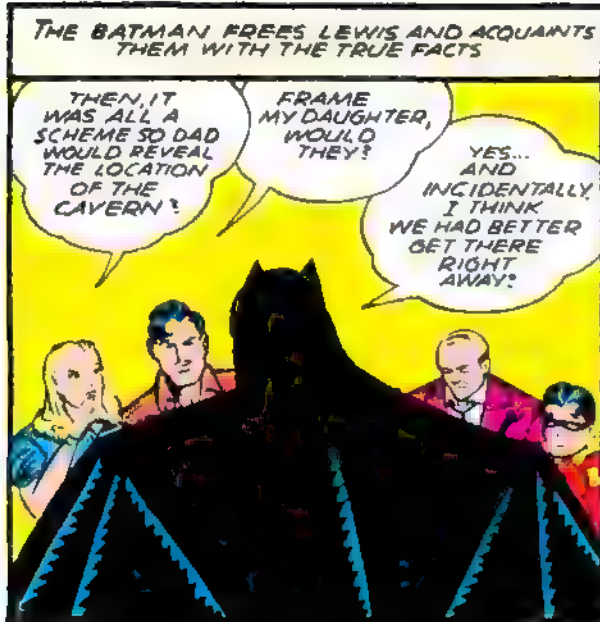
WHIRLING
IN TERROR,
THE
THUG
WHIPS
OUT A GUN,
AND
FIRES.....

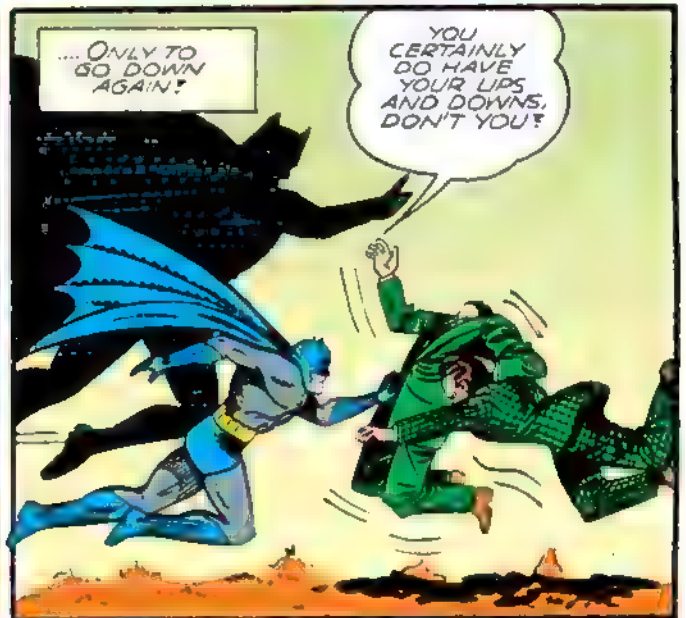


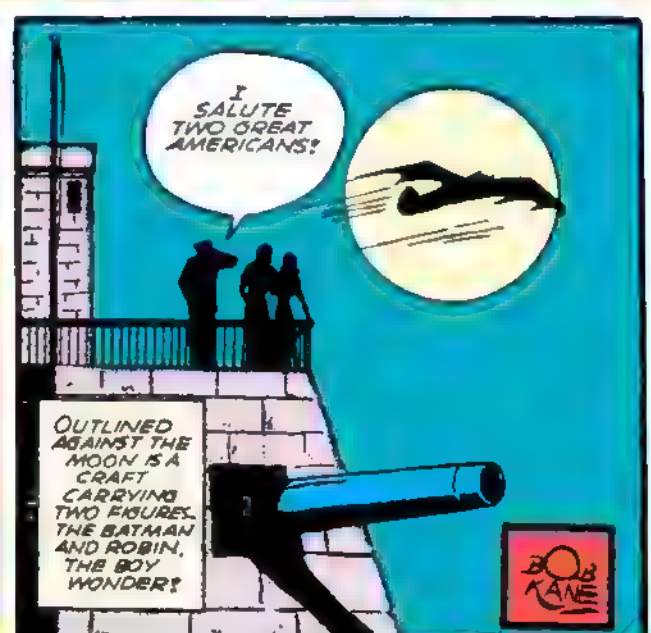
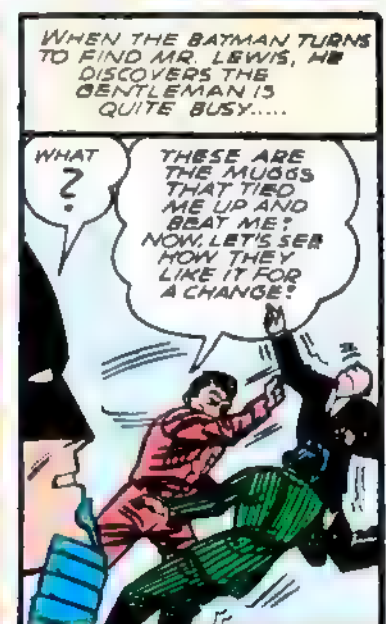
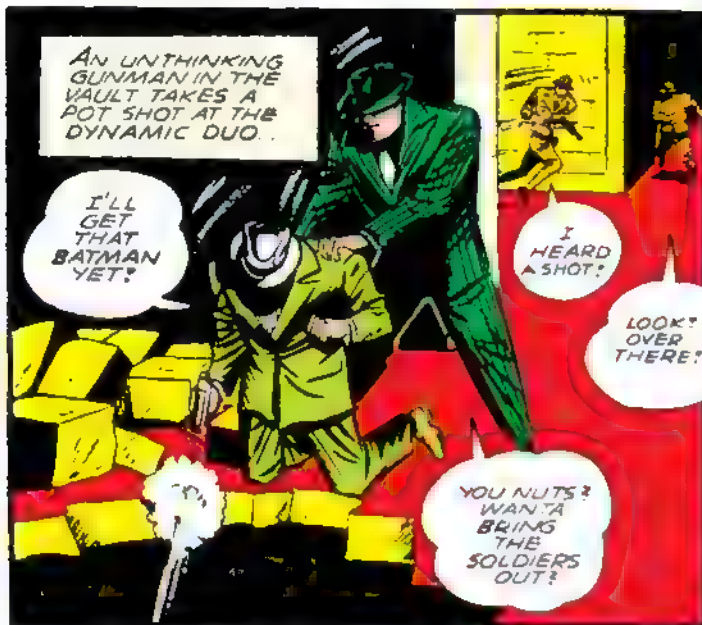














No. 49



Detective COMICS

MARCH

50¢ U.S. Per Copy



BATMAN

WITH
Robin
-THE BOY WONDER-

MYSTERIOUS BEING OF THE SHADOWS, GARBED IN GARMENTS AS INK-HUED, AS NIGHT ITSELF, THE BATMAN FLITS AMIDST THE DARKNESS LIKE THE WINGED CREATURE WHOSE NAME HE HAD ADOPTED. WITH HIS YOUNG, LAUGHING AIDE, ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER, HE MATCHES STROKES FOR CROOKDOM, JUST AS HE WILL OF CRIMINAL GENIUS WHO FEATURES IN THE CASE CALLED...
"CLAYFACE WALKS AGAIN!"

JOE KANE

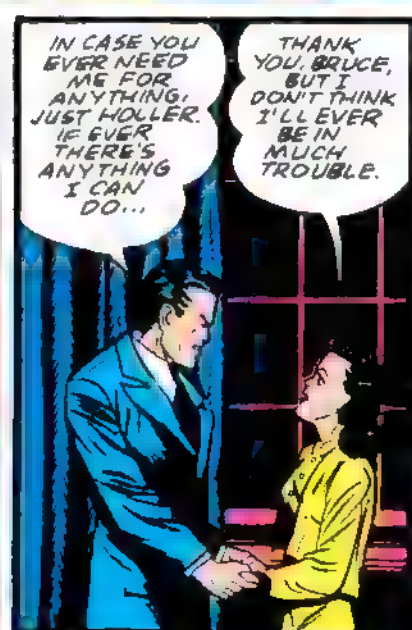
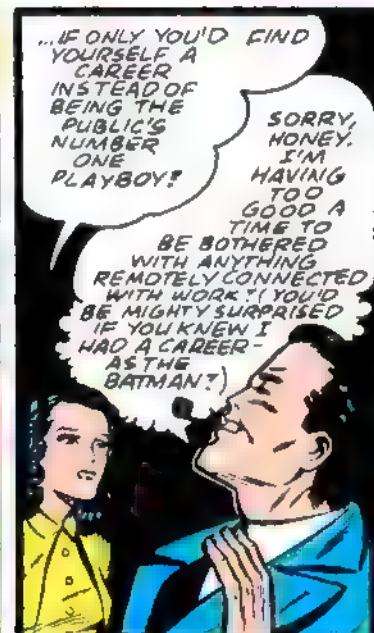
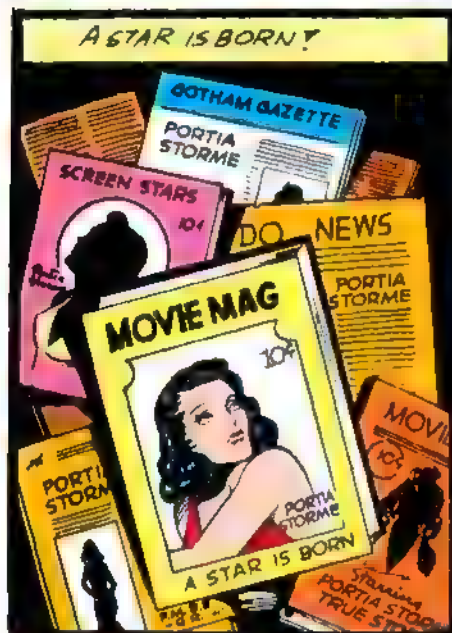
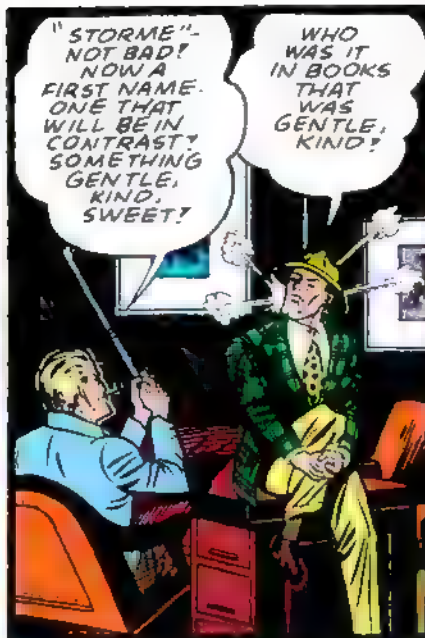
IT WAS NOT SO LONG AGO THAT THE CHARACTER ACTOR BASIL KARLO HAD GONE INSANE WHEN MOVIEGOERS HAD TIRED OF HIM, MAKING UP AS CLAYFACE, ONE OF HIS OLD HORROR ROLES, HE TRIED TO KILL THE STARS

OF A REMAKE OF ONE OF HIS OLD STARRING PICTUREST WHEN THE FEMALE STAR WAS MURDERED BY HIM, JULIE, HER UNDERSTUDY, TOOK HER PLACE FINALLY, THE BATMAN INTERFERED IN TIME TO STOP CLAYFACE FROM ADDING HER TO HIS LIST OF MURDERS...

MONTHS LATER, AFTER THE PICTURE HAS BEEN RELEASED... IN THE OFFICE OF BENTLEY, HEAD OF ARGUS PICTURES...

CHIEF, THIS UNDERSTUDY, JULIE WHAT'S HER NAME, GOT RAVE NOTICES! LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE GOT A STAR!

BUT HER NAME, GABBY-HER NAME? YOU'RE MY PUBLICITY MAN. I WANT YOU TO GIVE HER ANOTHER NAME - SOMETHING GLAMOROUS.



BUT
PORTIA
IS WRONG.

SHE
WILL
NEED
BRUCE
WAYNE
SOON...
BUT
AS HIS
OTHER
SELF...
THE
BATMAN?

THAT VERY NIGHT, AS
THUNDER YELLS OUT IN
BASS, AND LIGHTNING
GLITTERS IN THE HEAVENS,
A PRISON AMBULANCE
ROLLS SLOWLY ALONG A
WET ROAD...

WHO IS
THAT
GUY IN
THE
BACK?

BASIL KARLO,
THAT HORROR
MOVIE
ACTOR? WHAT
A NIGHT TO
BE TRANSFERRING
HIM TO THE
STATE ASYLUM?
SORTA FITS
DOESN'T IT?

AS THE RAIN RUSHES DOWN
WITH INCREASING FORCE,
THE TRUCK SUDDENLY SKIDS
MADLY ON THE SLIPPERY
ROAD AND PLUNGES OFF
THE EMBANKMENT...



THERE IS A CRASH - A SUDDEN
STILLNESS. MINUTES PASS.
THEN, A LONE FIGURE RISES
SHAKILY FROM THE
TWISTED MASS OF
STEEL AND WOOD...

A FLASH OF JAGGED LIGHTNING
MOMENTARILY ILLUMINATES THE
MACABRE SCENE, AND REVEALS THE
FACE OF THE SURVIVOR... BASIL KARLO,
THE PRISONER?



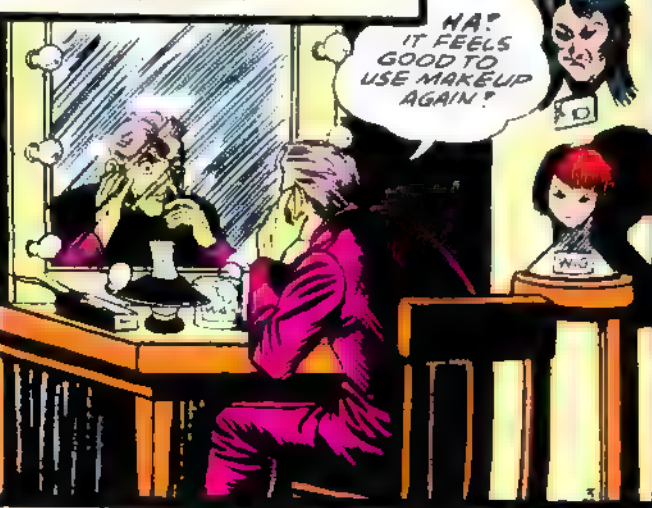
YOU
SEE?
IT'S ME -
KARLO!
AND I'M
FREE! FRE-EE
-EE?

MOMENTS LATER, THE
OWNER OF A MOVIE MAKE-
UP SUPPLY STORE FALLS
BACK IN UTTER TERROR
AS A TERRIBLE FIGURE
NEARS HIM...



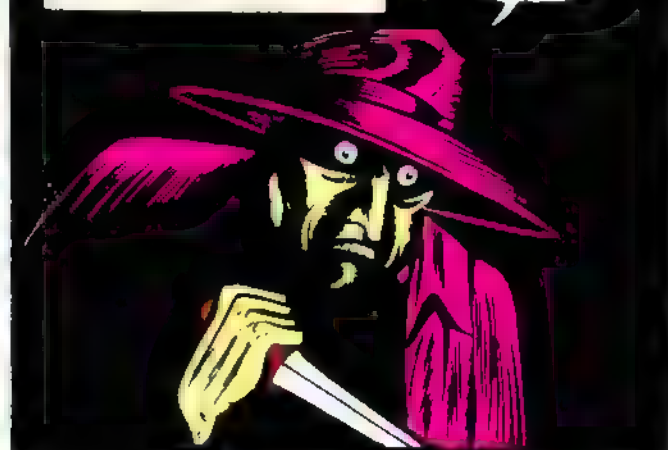
WHO-
WHAT
DO
YOU
WANT?

THERE IS A STRANGLING
SCREAM, THE FALL OF A
BODY. THEN KARLO LOOKS
ABOUT, SITS BEFORE A MIRROR,
AND DEFTLY APPLIES
MAKEUP...

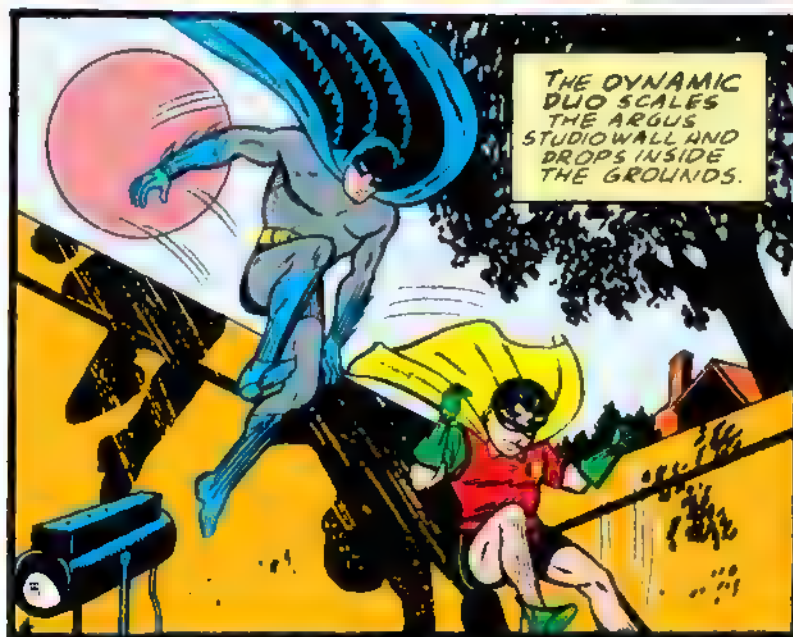
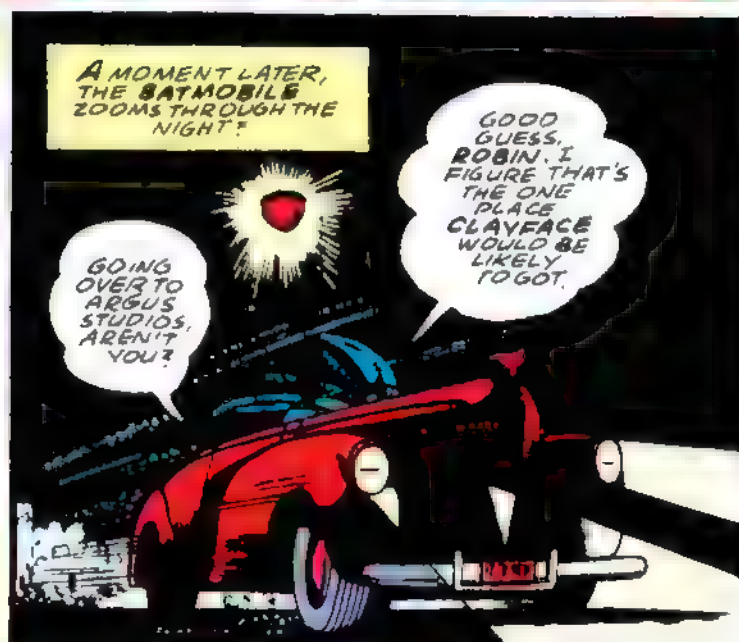
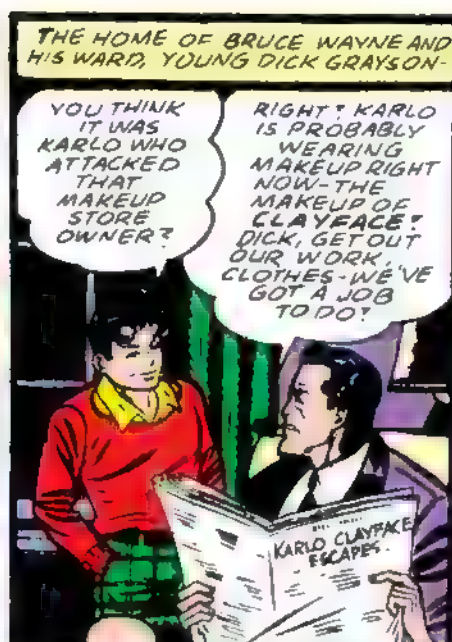


HA?
IT FEELS
GOOD TO
USE MAKEUP
AGAIN?

...FIRST THE WAY, THEN
CLAY... WIG... AND
FINALLY THE HAT AND
CAPE IN PLACE OF THE
FACE OF KARLO... THE
GROTESQUE ONE OF...
CLAYFACE?



THE
WORLD
WILL ONCE
AGAIN
HEAR
OF
ME!



WALKING ACROSS A "YACHT" SET IS A MYSTERIOUS FIGURE... CLAYFACE?

THIS STUDIO FIRED ME! ME-KARLO! I'LL DESTROY IT BY FIRE! THIS INCENDIARY BOMB SHOULD DO IT VERY NICELY!

THEN CLAYFACE SEES...

THE BATMAN! THE MAN RESPONSIBLE FOR MY CAPTURE!

CLAYFACE REACHES ON THE "YACHT" WALL AND SEIZING A FIRE HOOK, HURLS IT AT THE BATMAN!

SOME SIXTH SENSE, SOME INSTINCTIVE FEELING OF DANGER, WARNS THE BATMAN AND HE DUCKS...

WHA..?

THE BATMAN SEES HIS ENEMY AND GIVES CHASE...

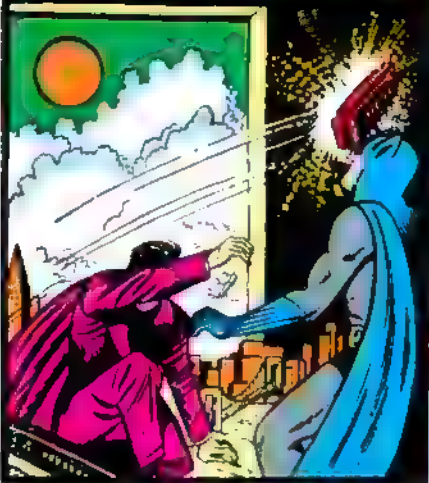
CLAYFACE!

A LOW, SWEEPING TACKLE BRINGS CLAYFACE DOWN, ON A SET OF A MINIATURE CITY...

STICK AROUND CHUM!

LIKE TWO TITANS, THEY BATTLE OVER THE MINIATURE CITY...

SUDDENLY, CLAYFACE SCOOPS UP A TINY RAILROAD TRAIN AND MANAGES TO CATCH THE BATMAN ON THE SIDE OF THE HEAD...

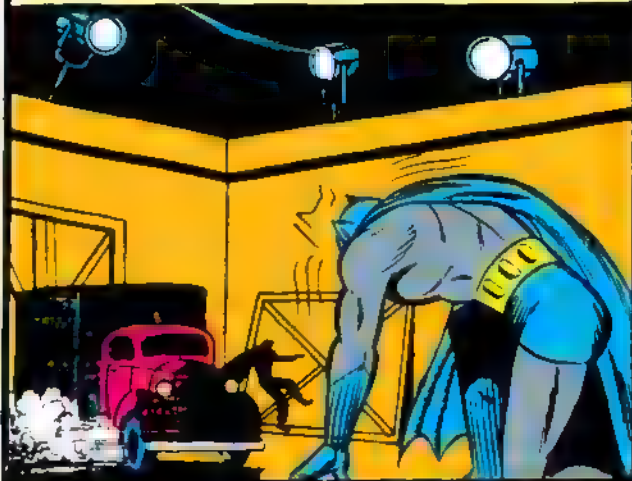


THE BATMAN DROPS

NOW'S MY CHANCE TO FINISH HIM OFF! ...THAT TRUCK- THAT'S THE ANSWER!



CLAYFACE SETS THE TRUCK SPEEDING AT THE BATMAN AND LEAPS OFF...



IS THE BATMAN DOOMED TO A MANGLED DEATH? WILL THE HURTLING MONSTER CLAIM THE BATMAN AS ITS VICTIM?

CLAYFACE, CERTAIN THAT THE BATMAN IS AS GOOD AS DEAD, WALKS THE STUDIO GROUNDS BENT ON MORE DESTRUCTION...

"IF THE BATMAN IS HERE, THEN THAT ROBIN BOY MUST BE AROUND* I'VE A SCORE TO SETTLE WITH HIM ALSO!"



IT IS AS IF FATE WERE DIRECTING THE SCENE, FOR ROBIN HIMSELF PASSES NEARBY



I'M IN LUCK TONIGHT LOOK AT HIM! SO SURE OF HIMSELF! BAH! I'LL TAKE THAT OUT OF HIM!

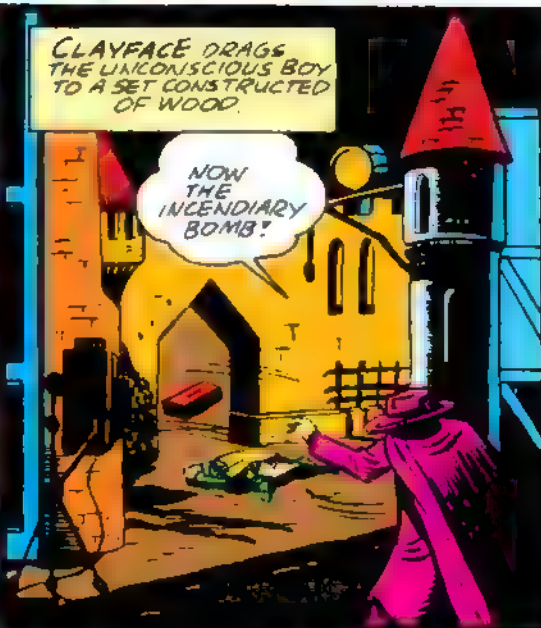


A PIECE OF SKY SEEMS TO FALL ON ROBIN'S HEAD! A LIGHT, WHITE AND PAINFUL, FLASHES BEFORE HIS EYES-THEN ALL IS BLACKNESS?



CLAYFACE DRAGS THE UNCONSCIOUS BOY TO A SET CONSTRUCTED OF WOOD

NOW THE INCENDIARY BOMB!

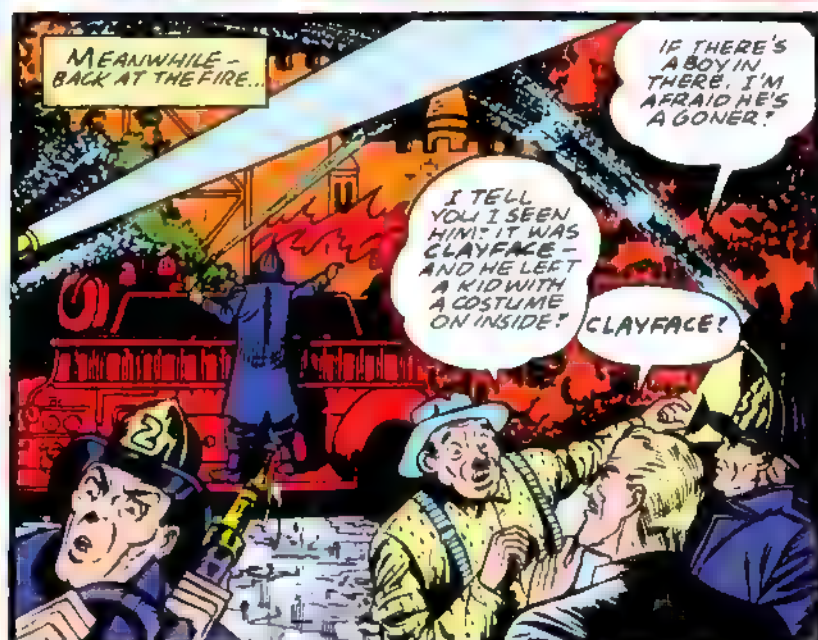
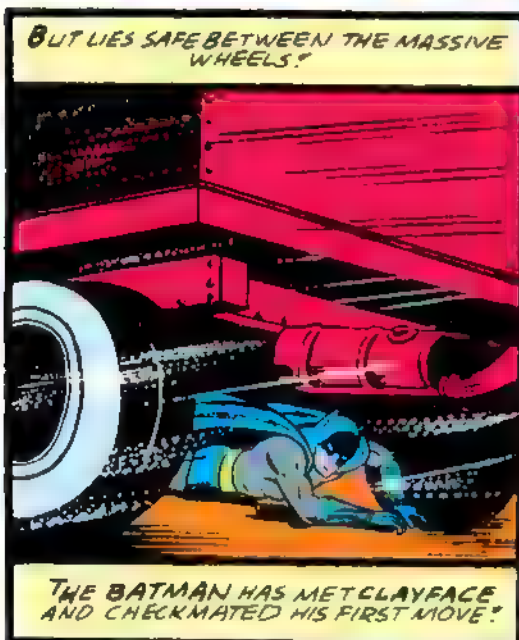
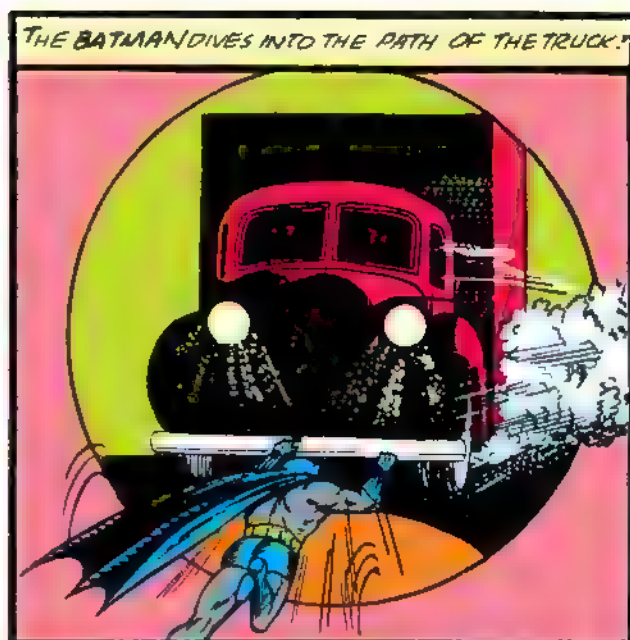
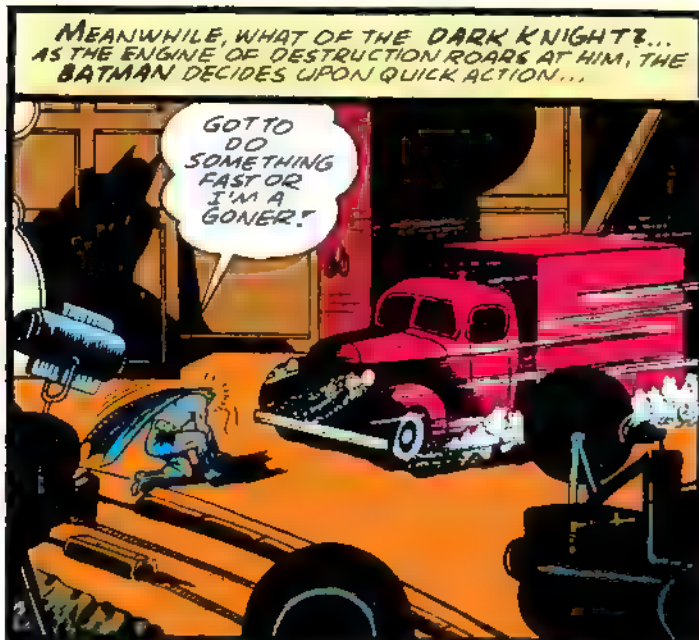


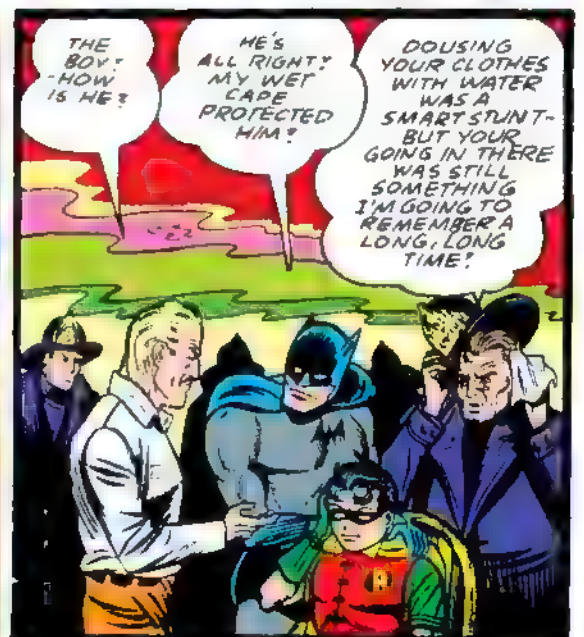
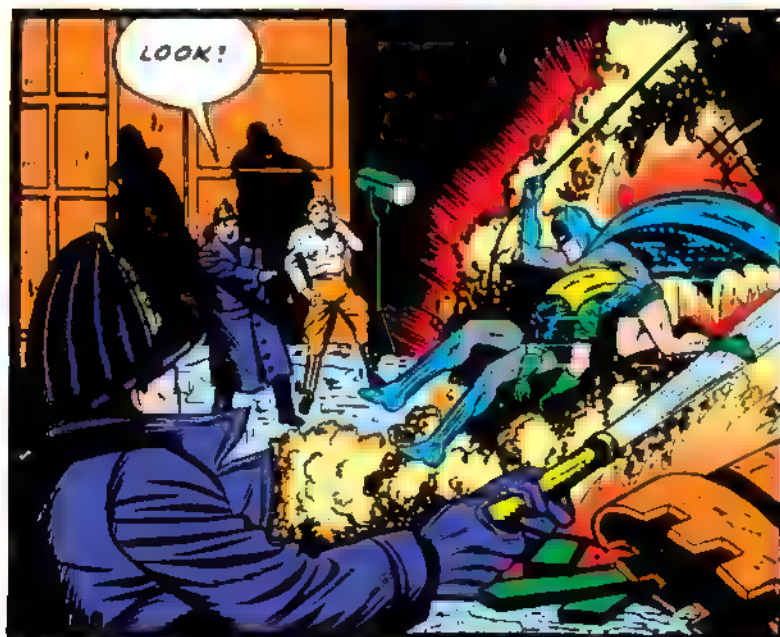
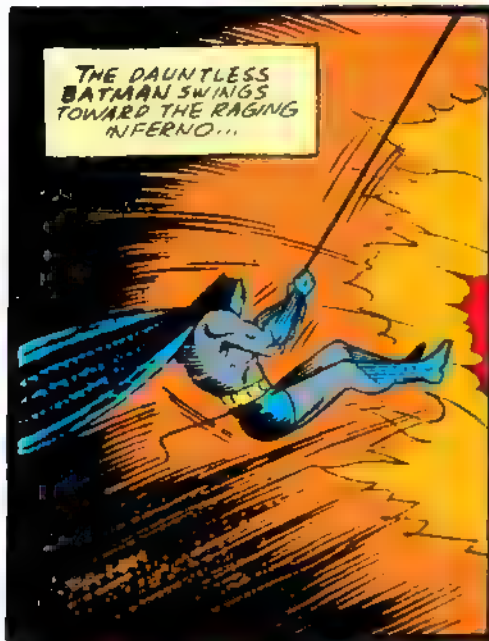
THERE IS A SHARP EXPLOSION, THEN-FIRE?

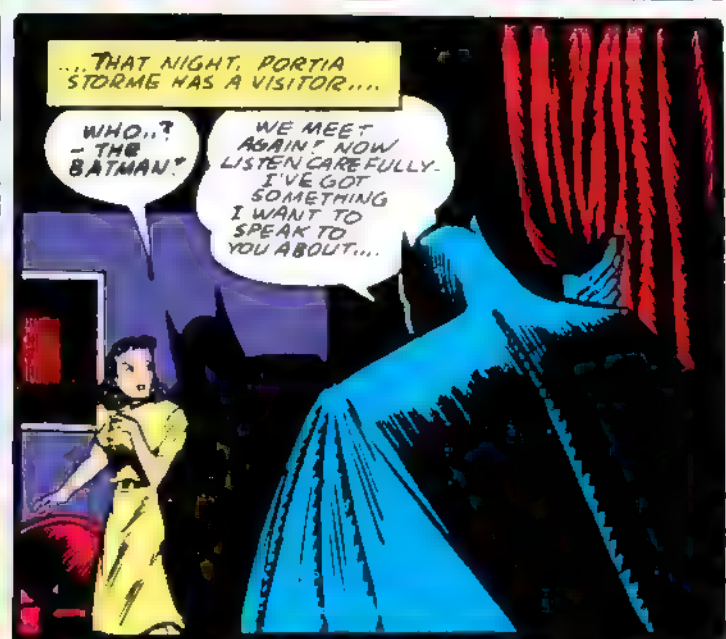
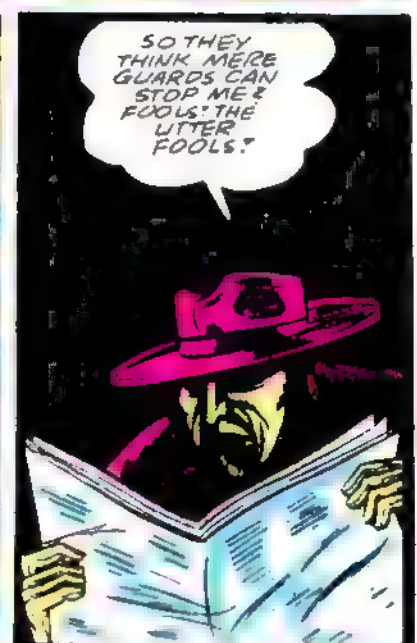
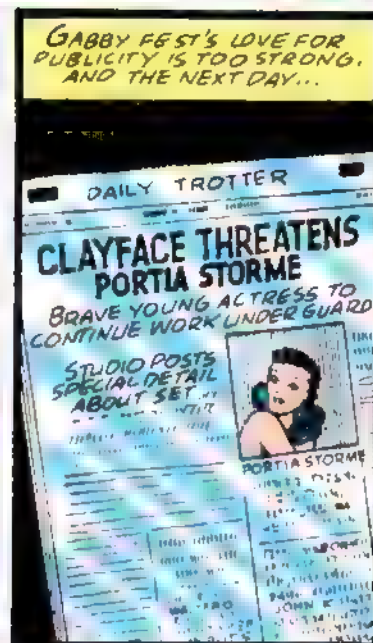
HA HA-BURN! - LIKE THE HATE IN MY HEART! BURN! HA HA HA!



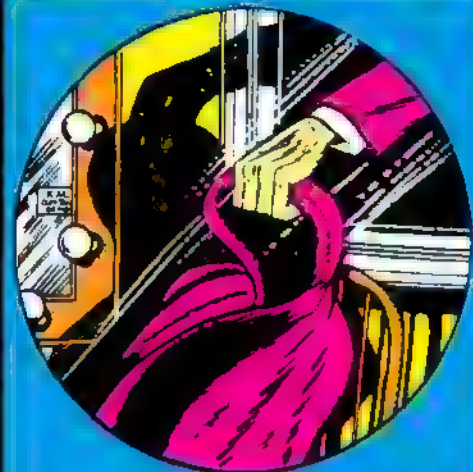
NOW IT IS ROBIN WHOM DEATH TAPS ON THE SHOULDER! IS THIS NIGHT TO SEE THE END OF THE DYNAMIC DUO?







EARLY THE NEXT MORNING, A HAND REACHES THROUGH A WINDOW IN THE STUDIO COSTUME DEPARTMENT



ANOTHER FIGURE JOINS THE MANY EXTRAS THAT STROLL PAST THE GUARDS ONTO THE SET...

NOW DON'T WORRY ABOUT A THING, PORTIA - WITH ALL THE POLICE I'VE GOT POSTED, CLAYFACE WON'T DARE TO SHOW UP!

...I'LL TRY NOT TO, MR. BENTLEY... BUT I HAVE A QUEER FEELING THAT HE WILL.



SUDDENLY, TWO MANTLED FORMS RACE TOWARD THE GUARDED SET... THEY ARE THE BATMAN AND ROBIN!

LET US THROUGH? PORTIA STORME IS IN TERRIBLE DANGER!



YEAH - FROM MASKED GUYS LIKE YOU?

LET'S GRAB 'EM, BOYS?

OKAY, BUDDY - YOU ASKED FOR IT!



I SAID, WE'RE GOING THROUGH!



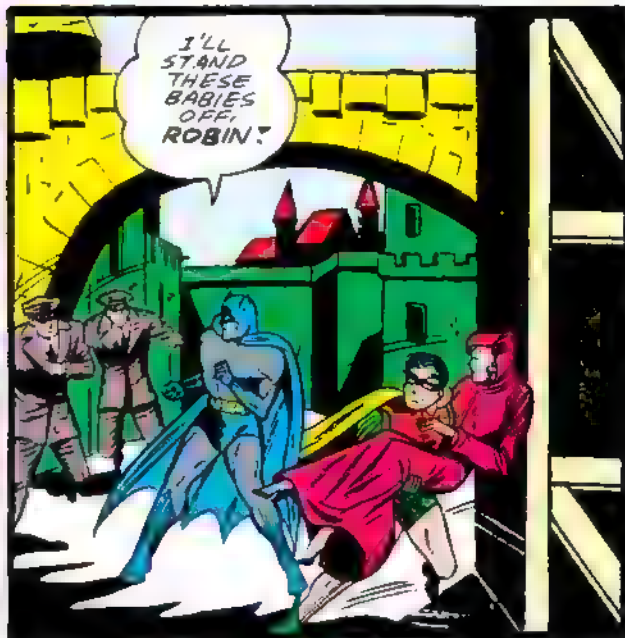
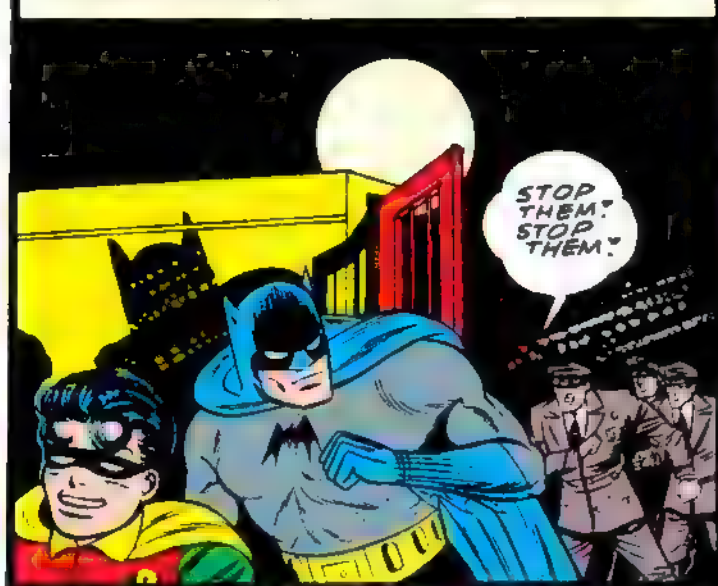
...AND HE'S NOT KIDDING!



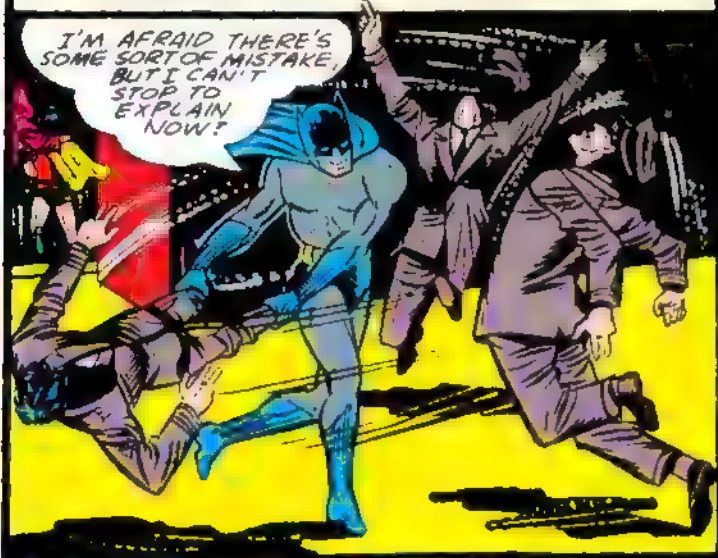
I REPEAT, GENTLEMEN - WE'RE GOING THROUGH?



ONTO THE SET RACES THE DYNAMIC DUO...



AS ROBIN DISAPPEARS WITH PORTIA STORME INTO A SMALL ALCOVE OF THE CASTLE, THE BATMAN HOLDS OFF THE ATTACKING GUARDS...



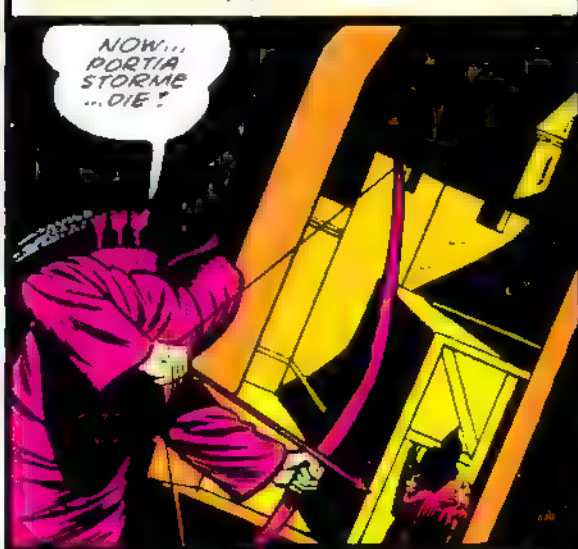
HOWEVER, THE NUMBER OF GUARDS PROVES TOO OVERWHELMING, AND THE DYNAMIC DUO RETREATS...



UP IN ONE OF THE TOWERS, CLAYFACE GLOATS...

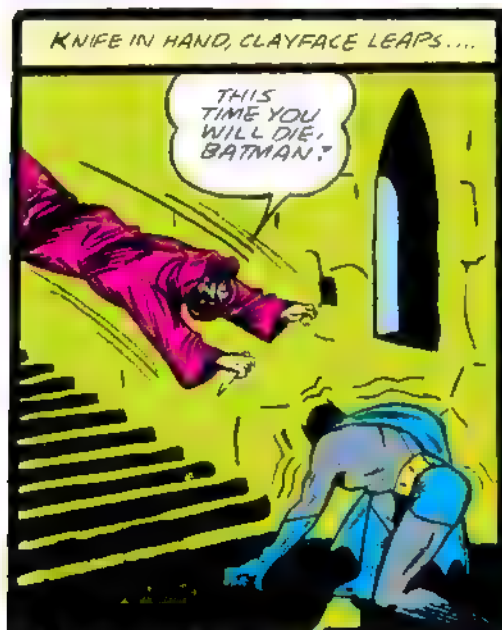
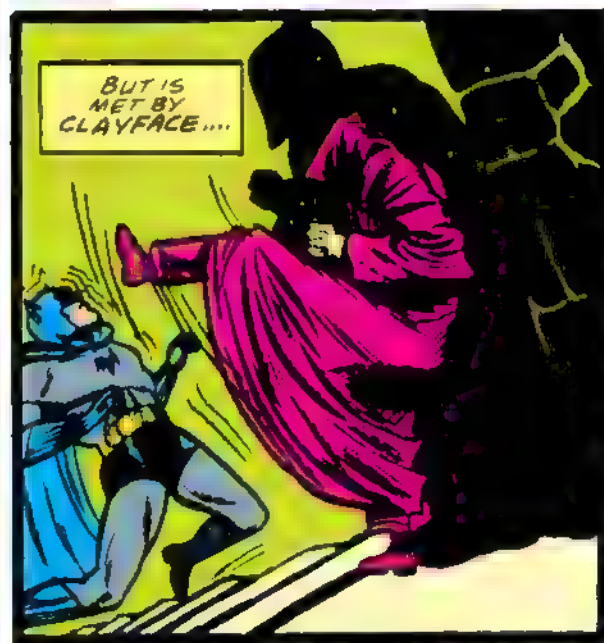
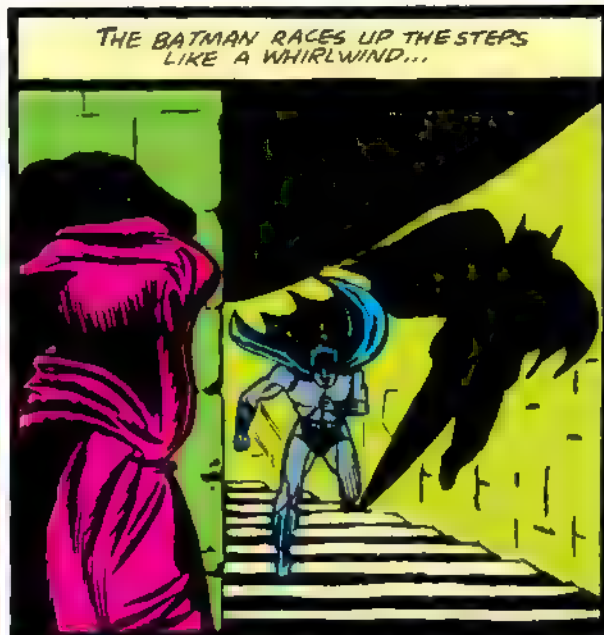


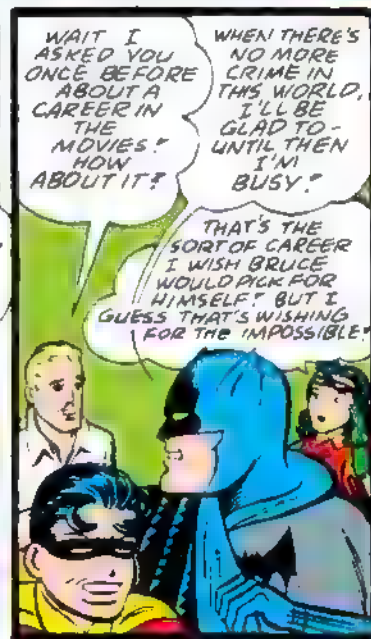
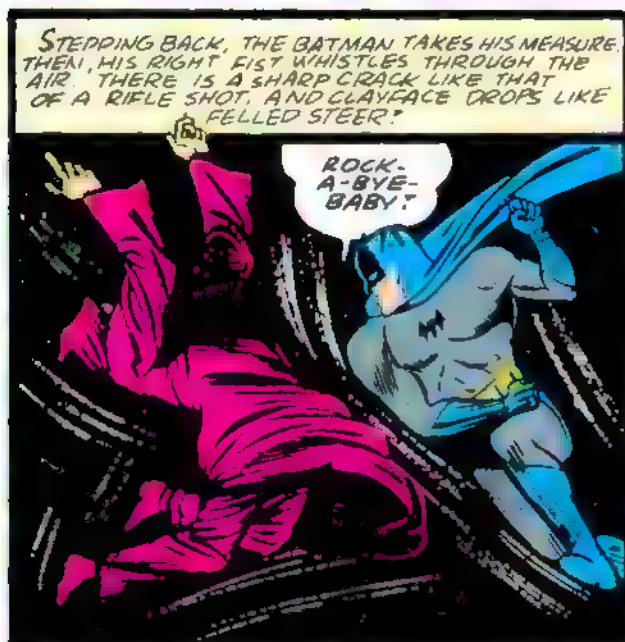
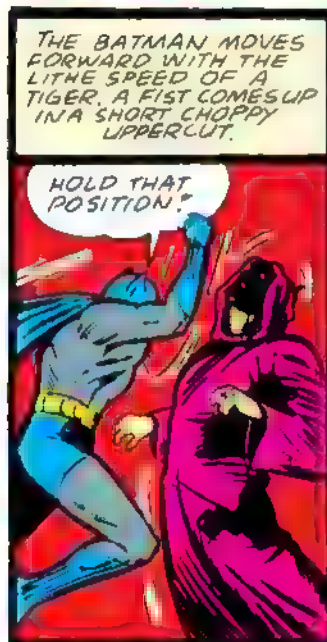
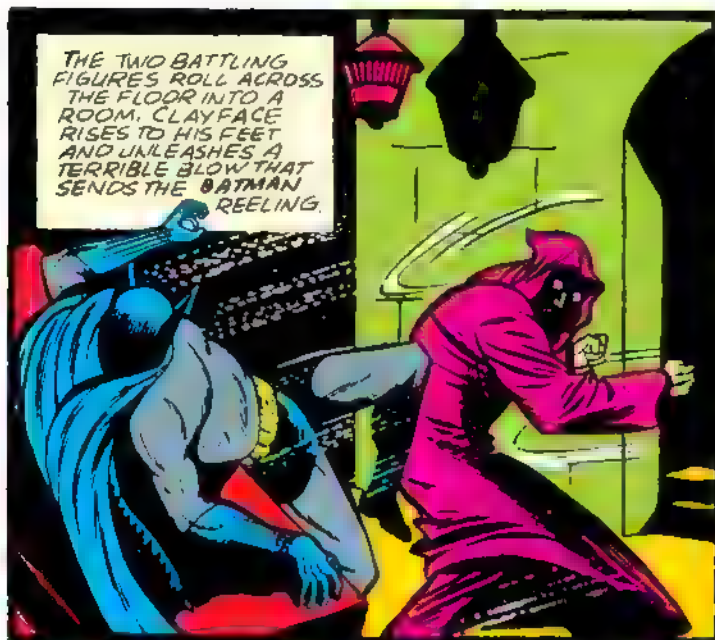
CLAYFACE GRIMLY PLACES AN ARROW INTO HIS GIANT BOW... DRAWS IT FULL BACK AND...



THERE IS A TWANG... A HISS... AND THE SHAFT OF DEATH BURIES ITSELF IN THE BACK OF PORTIA STORME!









No. 50



The **BATMAN**

Detective

Reg. U.S. Pat. Off.

APRIL

COMICS



BATMAN

WITH
Robin
THE BOY WONDER

TO MANY PEOPLE, THE BATMAN IS A BEING OF MYSTERY, AN EERIE POWER. YET, HE IS A MAN-A MAN WHO HAS DEVELOPED HIS BRAIN AND HIS MUSCULAR FRAME TO THE HIGHEST DEGREE. A LIVING BEING OF THE DARKNESS, HE COMES AND GOES UNSEEN. HIS AIM IN LIFE- THE BLOTTING OUT OF ALL CRIME- ASSISTING THE BATMAN IS THAT PHENOMENAL BOY WONDER, ROBIN! IT IS THESE TWO WHO WILL SOLVE AND METE OUT JUSTICE IN....
"THE CASE OF THE THREE DEVILS!"

JOHN KANE

ONE STILL NIGHT, AS THE BATMAN AND ROBIN GHOST OVER THE ROOFTOPS, THEY SPY THREE BIZARRE FIGURES IN FLIGHT. WITHOUT A MOMENT'S HESITATION, THE DYNAMIC DUO SWINGS DOWN TO DO BATTLE WITH THE STRANGELY-CLAD FIGURES.

AS ROBIN DROPS TO AID THE BATMAN, HE IS TACKLED IN MID-AIR BY A DEVIL-LIKE FIGURE, AND THE TWO PLUNGE TO THE ROOFTOP BELOW.....

AS ROBIN STARTS TO RISE SOMEWHAT UNSTEADILY TO HIS FEET, THE DEVIL-GARBED ATTACKER PUNISHES HIM CRUELLY WITH A WRESTLER'S TRICK....

RELAX, KID?



THEN, THE MAN SPRINGS FORWARD AND BRINGS A GUN BUTT DOWN ON THE BATMAN'S HEAD....

... AND THIS WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU, MISTER BATMAN?



THE THREE DEVILS CONTINUE THEIR FLIGHT ACROSS THE ROOFTOPS....

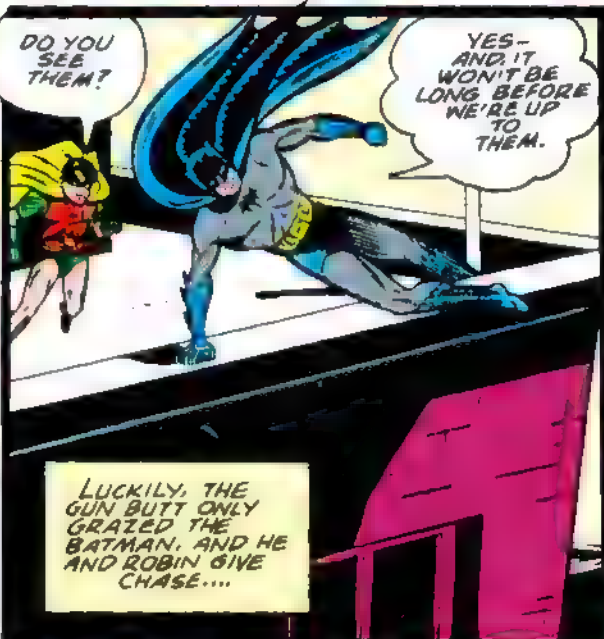
WHY DIDN'T YOU PLUG THE BATMAN AND GET IT OVER WITH?

SURE - AND BRING ON THE COPST USE YOUR HEAD?



DO YOU SEE THEM?

YES - AND IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE WE'RE UP TO THEM.

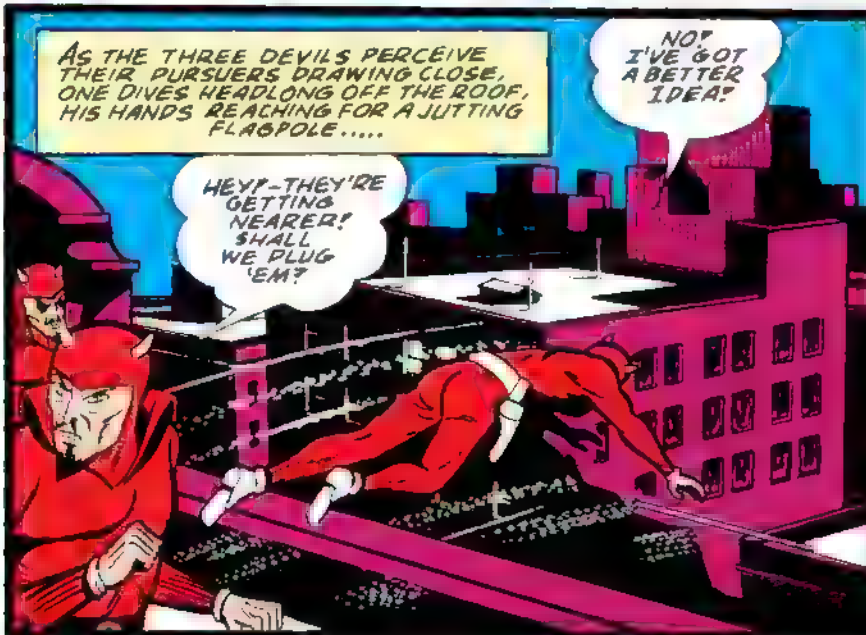


LUCKILY, THE GUN BUTT ONLY GRAZED THE BATMAN. AND HE AND ROBIN GIVE CHASE....

AS THE THREE DEVILS PERCEIVE THEIR PURSUERS DRAWING CLOSE, ONE DIVES HEADLONG OFF THE ROOF, HIS HANDS REACHING FOR A JUTTING FLAGPOLE.....

HEY! - THEY'RE GETTING NEARER! SHALL WE PLUG 'EM?

NO! I'VE GOT A BETTER IDEA?



WHEN HE GAINS THE FLAGPOLE, HE HOOKS HIS LEGS AROUND IT AND DANGLES HEAD DOWN....

LET'S GO!



A DARING PLUNGE BY THE SECOND DEVIL.....



.....A GIANT SWING THROUGH EMPTY SPACE, HE GRASPS THE HANDS OF THE FIRST DEVIL.....



...DOES A SOMERSAULT IN MID-AIR AND STREAKS TOWARD A FIRE-ESCAPE RUNG ON THE NEXT BUILDING...



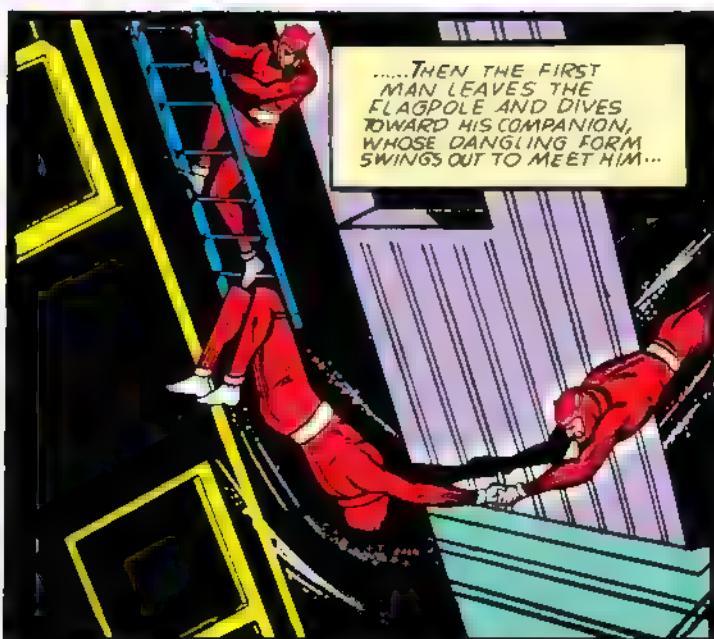
THE SCENE IS REPEATED BY THE LAST THIEF...



.....AND THE THIRD DEVIL IS CAUGHT BY THE SECOND DEVIL.....



.....THEN THE FIRST MAN LEAVES THE FLAGPOLE AND DIVES TOWARD HIS COMPANION, WHOSE DANGLING FORM SWINGS OUT TO MEET HIM...



THE THREE, THEN, SCRAMBLE UP THE LADDER AND CONTINUE THEIR SUCCESSFUL FLIGHT?



OKAY? STEP ON IT!

THE BATMAN AND ROBIN ARRIVE TOO LATE?



BOY, DID YOU SEE HOW THEY GOT AWAY?

YES- AND VERY NEATLY DONE! ROBIN, LOOKS LIKE WE'RE IN FOR SOME STIFF COMPETITION! THOSE DEVILS ARE DARE-DEVILS!

IN THE ENSUING WEEKS, THE NAME OF THE "THREE DEVILS" BECOMES WELL KNOWN- TOO WELL KNOWN FOR COMFORT?



RECORD

THREE DEVILS LOOT JEWELRY STORE

NEWS

THREE DEVILS MAKE DARING ESCAPE AFTER HOLDUP

ATROU
VILS STEAL FAMOUS'S RUBY...

WELL, CAN YOU TELL ME WHY YOU DIDN'T CATCH THE THREE DEVILS THIS TIME?



CATCH THEM? WE CAN'T EVEN GET CLOSE TO THEM!

THEY HOP AROUND LIKE MEXICAN JUMPING BEANS!

AT HIS HOME, BRUCE WAYNE CHATS WITH HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON...



THOSE THREE DEVILS SEEM TO BE GIVING THE POLICE A VERY DEVIL OF A TIME! A BAD PUN, DICK, BUT QUITE TRUE, NEVERTHELESS!

DICK, WHAT DO YOU THINK THE THREE DEVILS DO WITH ALL THE JEWELS THEY'VE STOLEN?

WHY- WHY, THEY SELL THEM FOR MONEY, OF COURSE!



BUT WAIT- THEY CAN'T SELL THEM TO JEWELRY STORES.

EXACTLY! THEY MUST SELL THE STUFF TO A "FENCE"! - A MAN WHO BUYS STOLEN DIAMONDS!

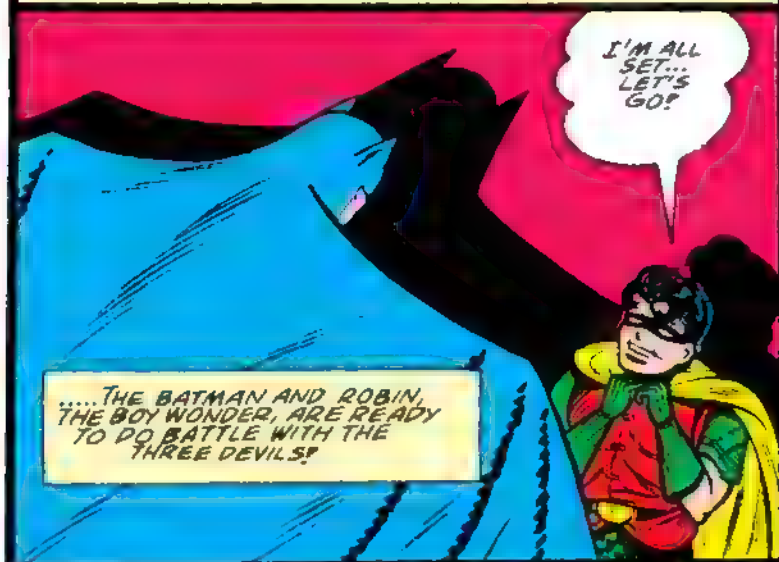


THERE ARE ONLY TWO FENCES IN THE CITY BIG ENOUGH TO BUY AND CUT UP THE DIAMONDS THE DEVILS HAVE STOLEN!

I SEE- AND WE'RE GOING TO KEEP AN EYE ON THE TWO FENCES! HERE WE GO AGAIN!

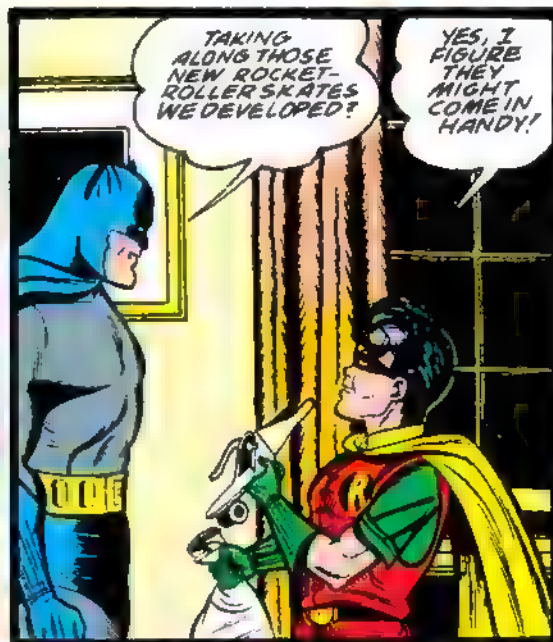


THE TWO DON STRANGE GARB..... AND ONCE AGAIN BECOME THEIR OTHER, STRANGER SELVES.....



I'M ALL SET... LET'S GO!

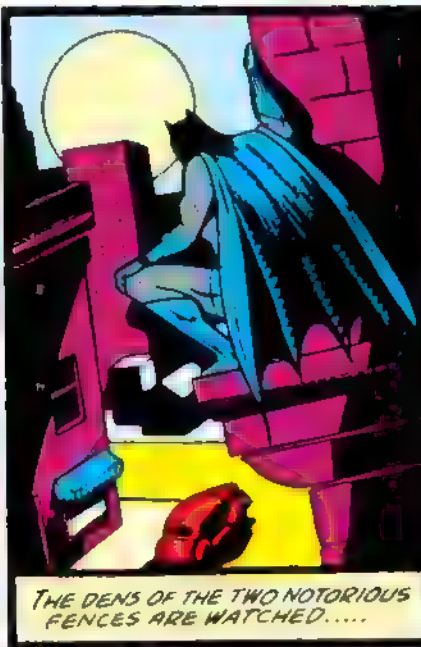
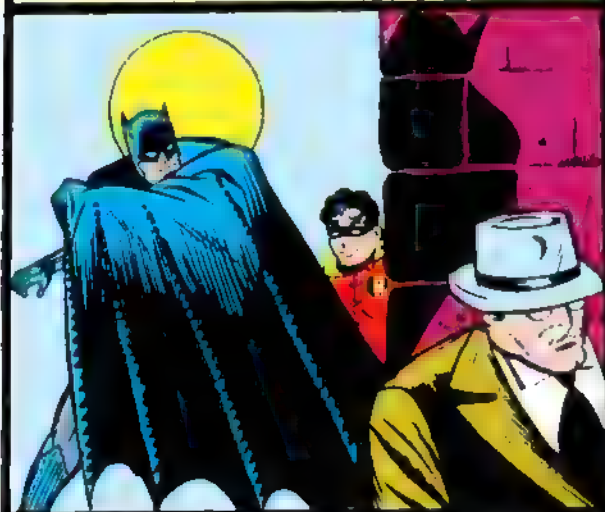
....THE BATMAN AND ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER, ARE READY TO DO BATTLE WITH THE THREE DEVILS!



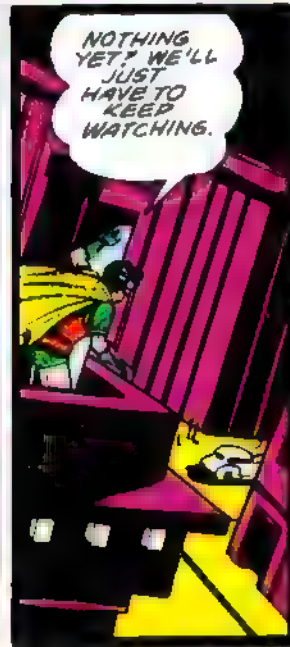
TAKING ALONG THOSE NEW ROCKET-ROLLER SKATES WE DEVELOPED?

YES, I FIGURE THEY MIGHT COME IN HANDY!

NIGHTFALL! THE MOON IS LIKE AN UNWINKING EYE AS IT LOOKS DOWN AT THE TWO MANTLED FIGURES WHO SLINK SILENTLY IN THE SHADOWS ACROSS THE GREY CITY STREETS....

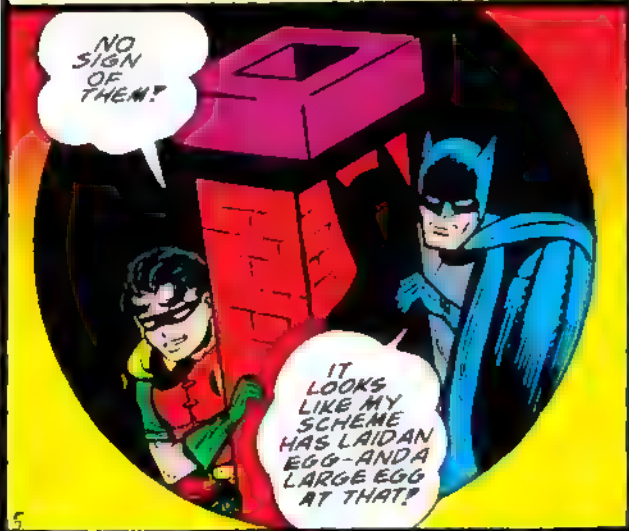


THE DENS OF THE TWO NOTORIOUS FENCES ARE WATCHED.....



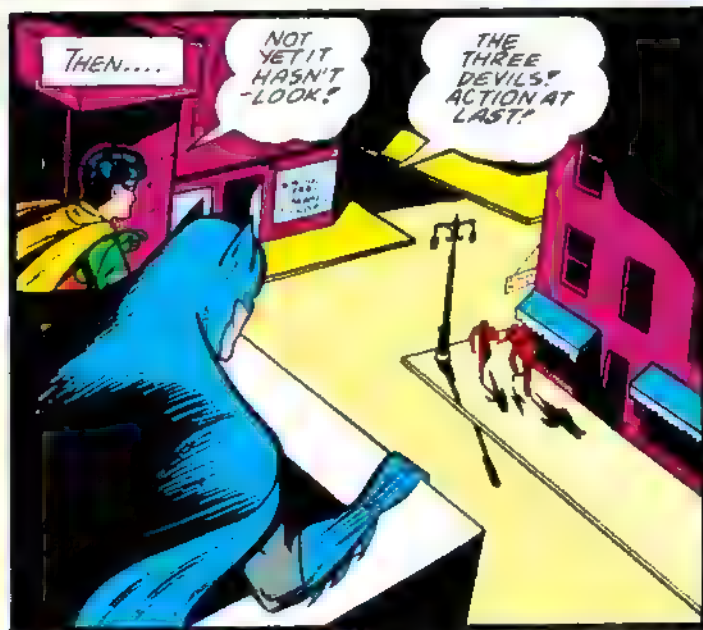
NOTHING YET! WE'LL JUST HAVE TO KEEP WATCHING.

NIGHT AFTER NIGHT, THE DYNAMIC DUO MOVES DEEP IN DARKNESS, KEEPING THEIR CONSTANT VIGIL.



NO SIGN OF THEM!

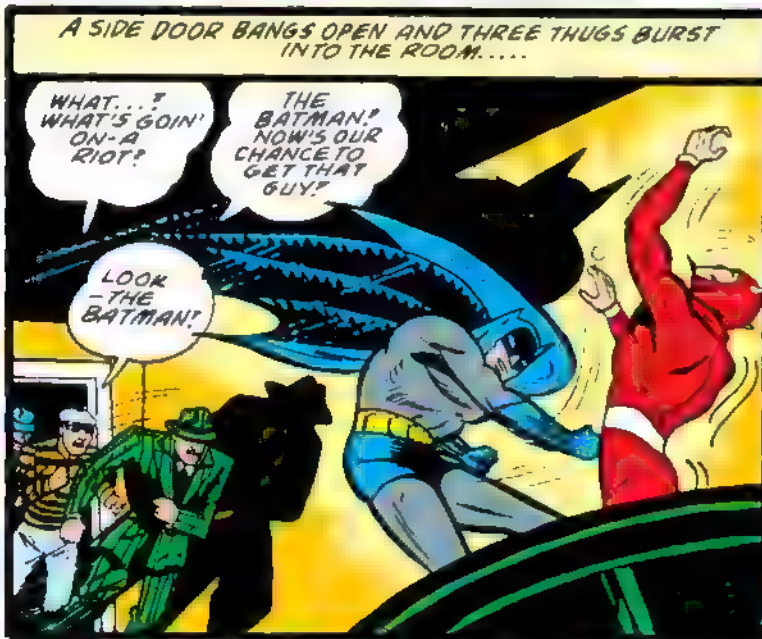
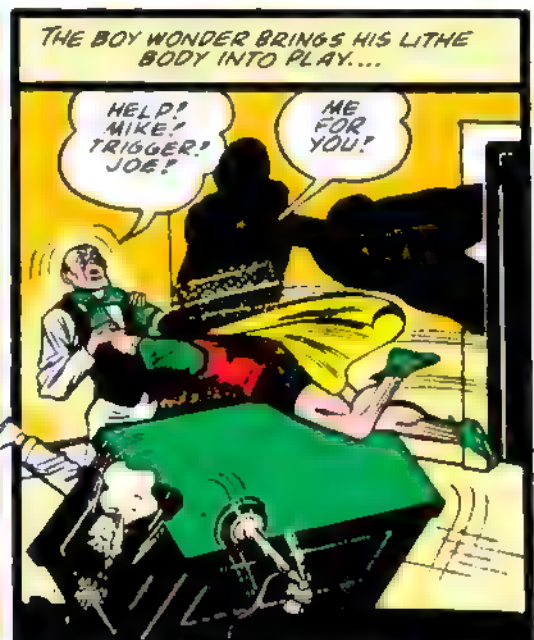
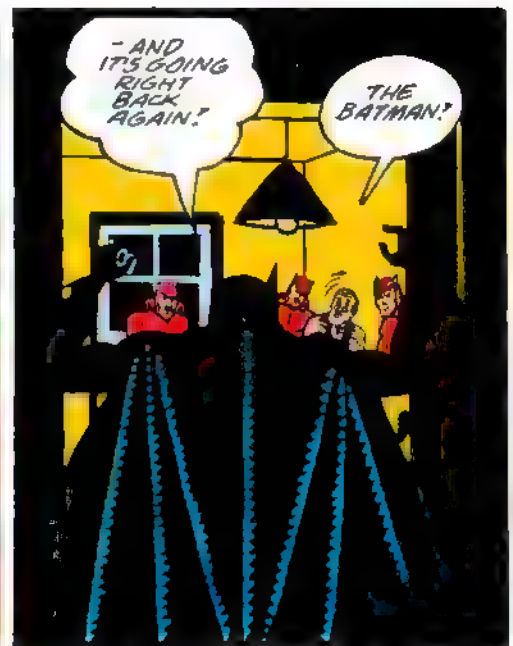
IT LOOKS LIKE MY SCHEME HAS LAID AN EGG-AND A LARGE EGG AT THAT!

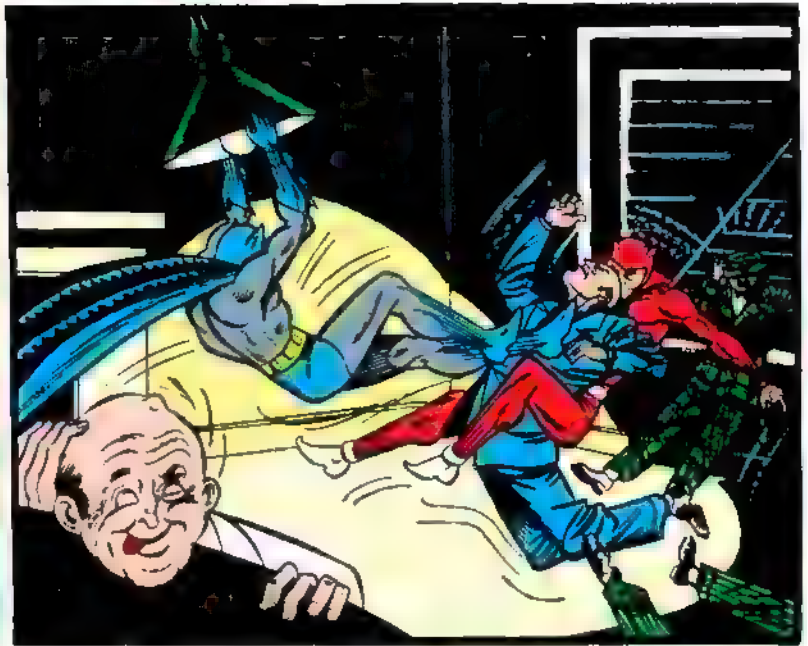


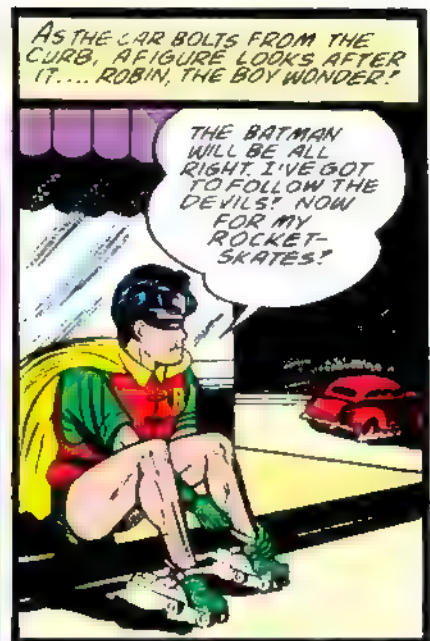
THEN....

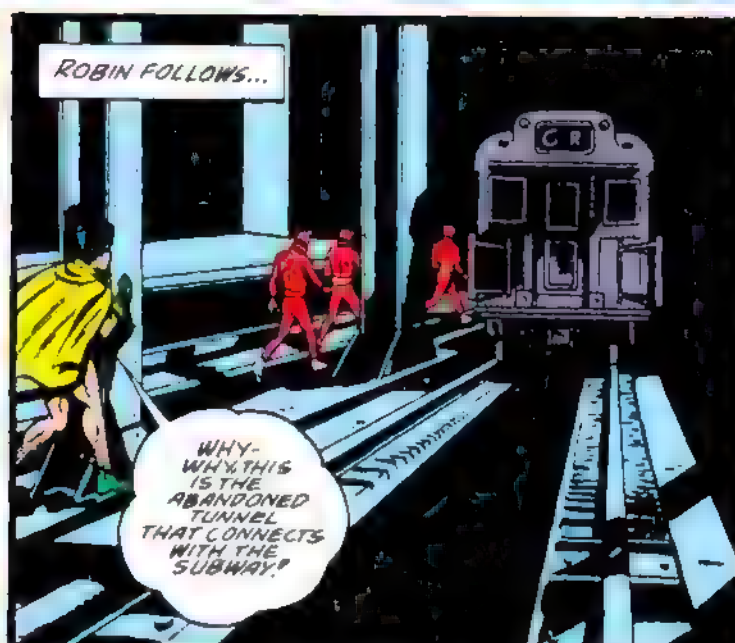
NOT YET IT HASN'T -LOOK!

THE THREE DEVILS! ACTION AT LAST!











AS ROBIN GAINS CONSCIOUSNESS, HE IS AWARE OF A THROBBING NOISE... THE GROUND SHIVERS... A SUBWAY TRAIN IS APPROACHING??



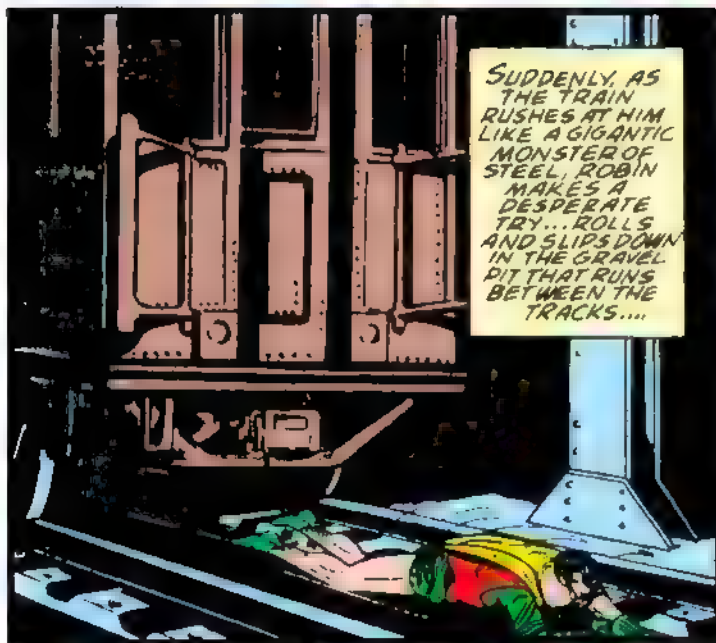
DEATH-CRUSHING DEATH IS HURTLING AT HIM AS THE TRAIN ROARS OUT OF THE TUNNEL...

TRAIN--GROGGY--CAN'T MOVE--GOT NO STRENGTH!

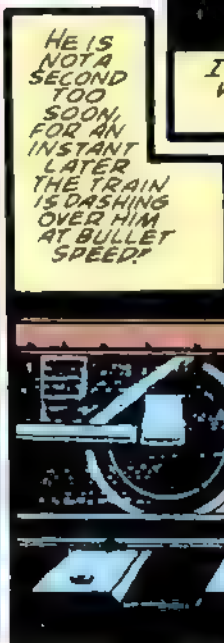


THE TERRIBLE BLOW ON THE HEAD HAS LEFT ROBIN STILL DIZZY AND WEAK? THE TRAIN LEAPS AT HIM AT A TERRIFYING SPEED...

GOT TO MOVE--GOT TO....



SUDDENLY, AS THE TRAIN RUSHES AT HIM LIKE A GIGANTIC MONSTER OF STEEL, ROBIN MAKES A DESPERATE TRY... ROLLS AND SLIPS DOWN IN THE GRAVEL PIT THAT RUNS BETWEEN THE TRACKS....



HE IS NOT A SECOND TOO SOON, FOR AN INSTANT LATER THE TRAIN IS DASHING OVER HIM AT BULLET SPEED!

IT POUNDS OVER THE RAILS, ITS WHEELS SCREAMING LIKE TORTURED BEASTS....



LATER, WHEN HE IS ABLE, ROBIN RACES HOME TO RELATE EVERYTHING TO THE BATMAN....

...SO I'M ALL RIGHT NOW. ANYWAY, WE KNOW WHERE THE HIDEOUT OF THE THREE DEVILS IS!

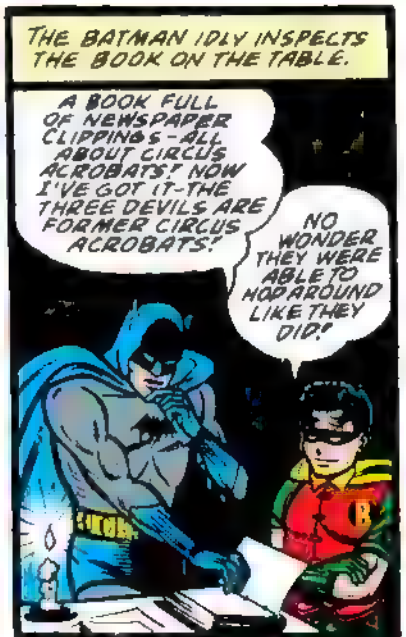
APPROPRIATE THAT THE DEVILS SHOULD HAVE A HIDEOUT UNDERGROUND--SORT OF IN KEEPING WITH THEIR CHARACTER! WE'LL TAKE A LOOK TOMORROW AFTER YOU'VE RESTED!



THE NEXT NIGHT THE DYNAMIC DUO RETRACE ROBIN'S STEPS AND ENTER THE HIDDEN ABODE OF THE THREE DEVILS!

THEY'RE GONE?

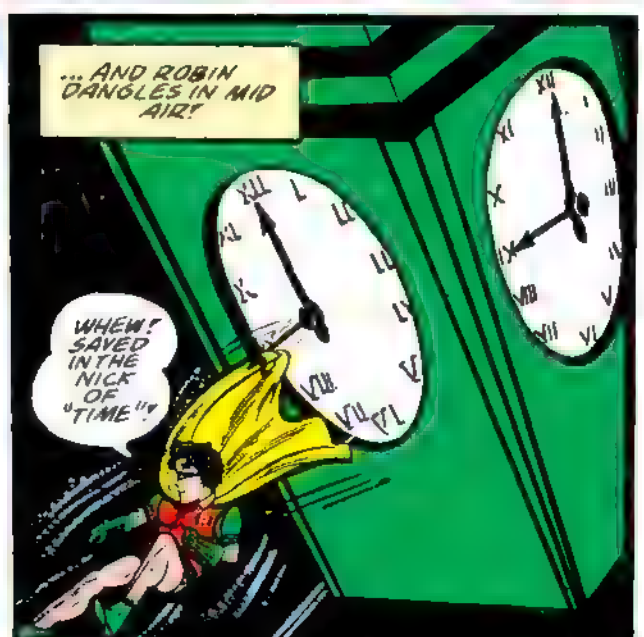
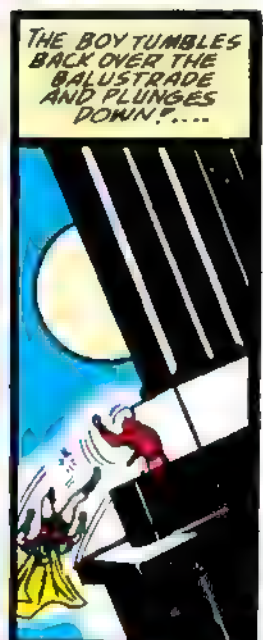
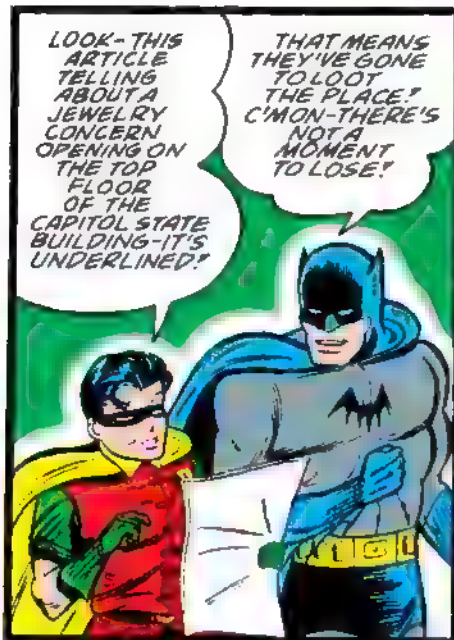
PROBABLY OUT PULLING ONE OF THEIR JOBS!

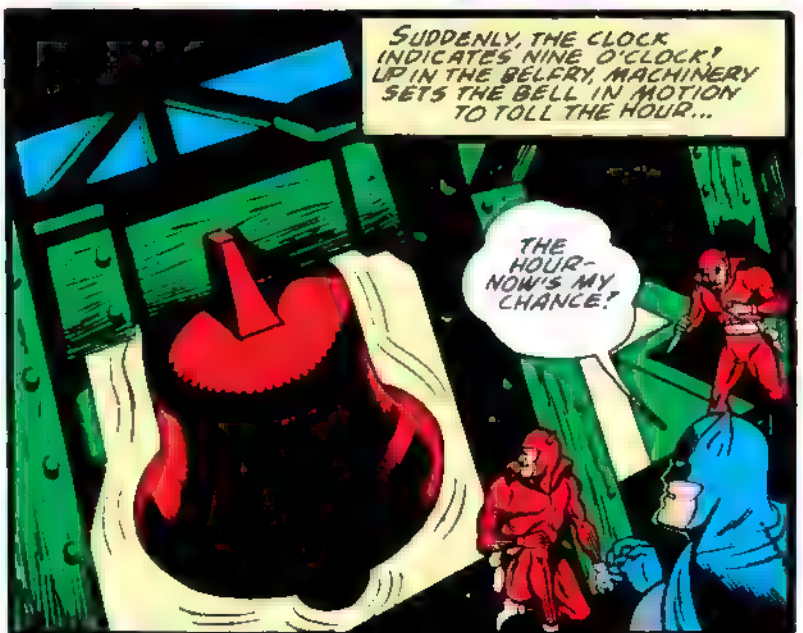


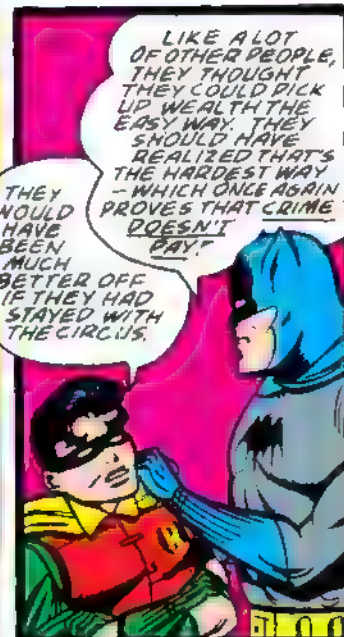
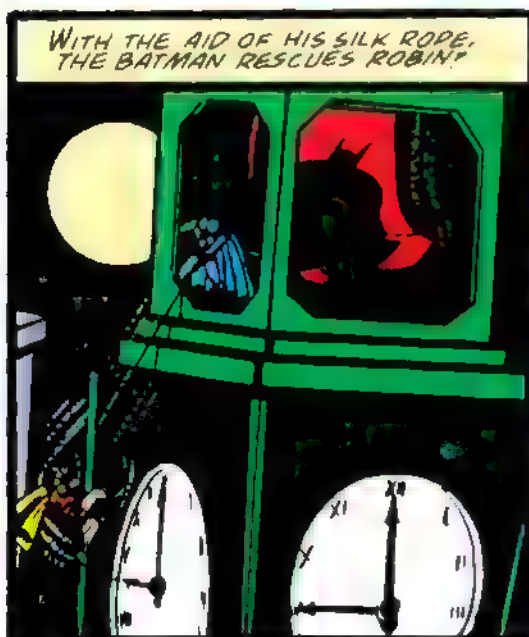
THE BATMAN IDLY INSPECTS THE BOOK ON THE TABLE.

A BOOK FULL OF NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS--ALL ABOUT CIRCUS ACROBATS! NOW I'VE GOT IT--THE THREE DEVILS ARE FORMER CIRCUS ACROBATS!

NO WONDER THEY WERE ABLE TO HOP AROUND LIKE THEY DID!







No. 5



SPRING ISSUE

IND

BATMAN

REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.



BATMAN

WITH
Robin
THE BOY WONDER

THE BATMAN, MYSTERIOUS FIGURE OF NIGHT, WHO HAS MATCHED WITS WITH MINIONS OF CRIME, AT LAST PLAYS A GAME OF CARDS WITH THAT SUPREME MASTER OF EVIL... THE JOKER! A GAME SO DEEP, SO CRAFTY THAT THE ONLY WAY TO WIN IT WAS TO... REACH ITS CLIMAX! CAN THE BATMAN DEFEAT A GAME WHICH EVERYONE ELSE HAD THOUGHT WON? READ ON... READ ON AND FIND THE ANSWER IN...
"THE RIDDLE OF THE MISSING CARD!"

BY
BOB KANE



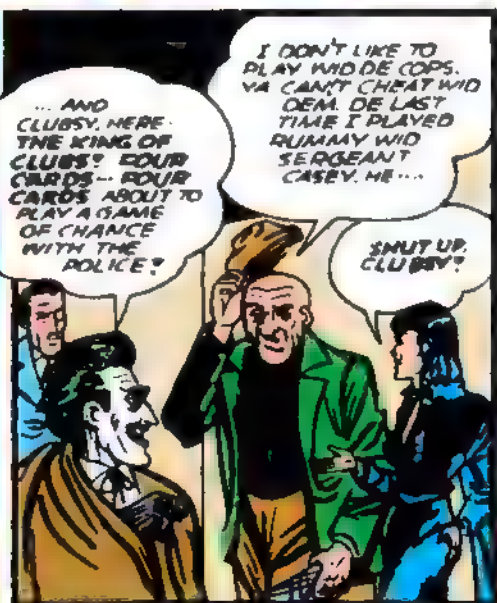
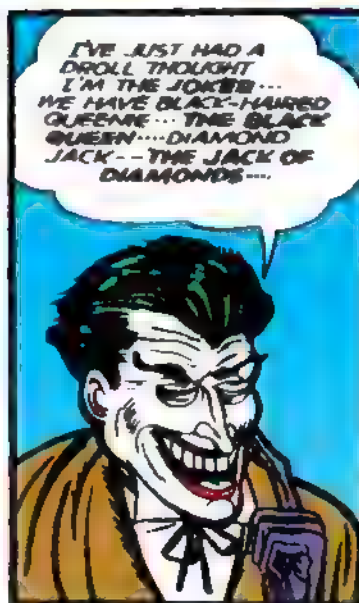
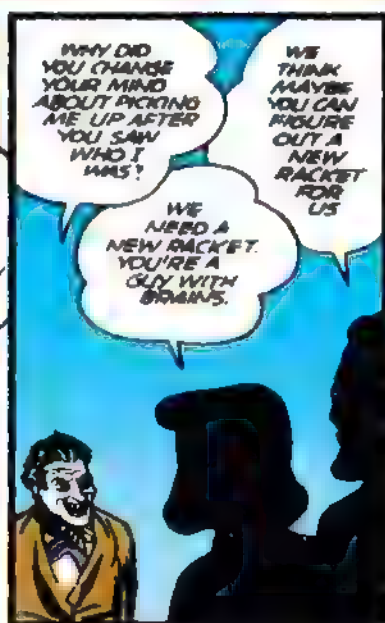
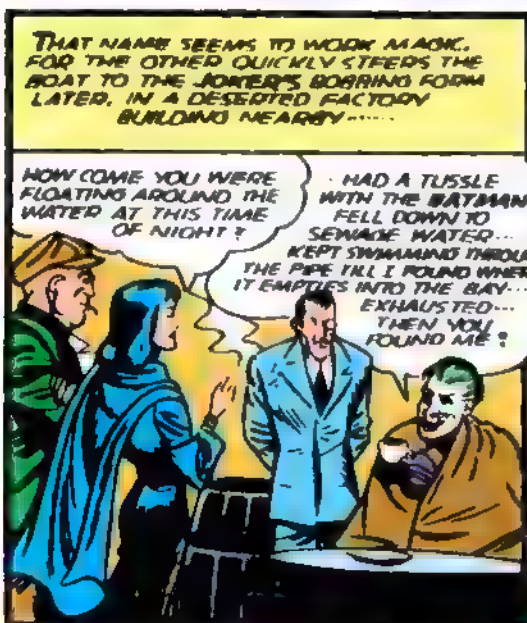
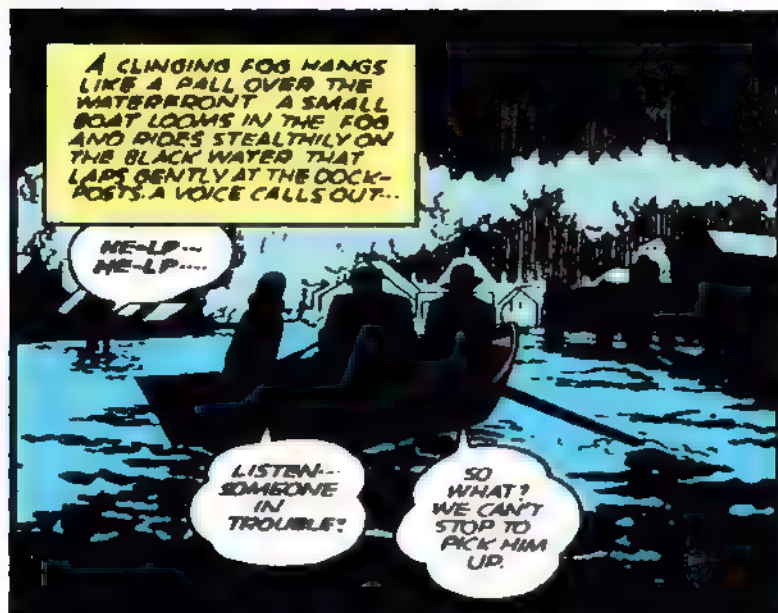
IN THE APARTMENT OF BRUCE WAYNE AND YOUNG DICK GRAYSON, WHO ARE, IN REALITY, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN THE BOY WONDER...

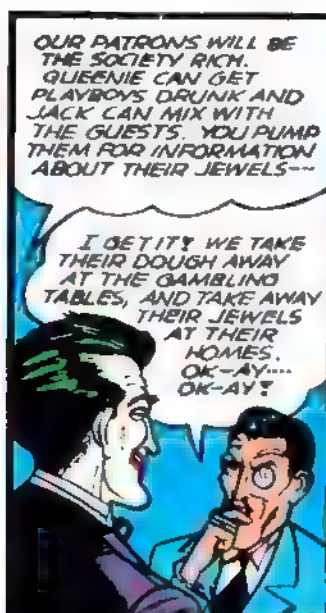
NOTHING MUCH HAD IN TOWN SINCE THE JOKER'S FINISH—NO HUM?

I GUESS THE JOKER DID DIE AFTER ALL, WHEN HE PLUNGED DOWN THAT TRAP-DOOR. AT LEAST, WE HAVEN'T HEARD OF HIM SINCE?

BUT IS THE JOKER REALLY DEAD? OR IS THIS MASTER CRIMINAL OF ALL TIME STILL ALIVE?

LET US SEE WHAT ACTUALLY DID BEFALL THE JOKER WHEN HE PLUMMETED THROUGH THE TRAP-DOOR TO THE SEWAGE WATERS SO FAR BELOW...





TWO MONTHS LATER.... THE GAMBLING SHIP, "THE DECK" HAS BECOME FRONT PAGE NEWS... ALONG WITH THE NEWS OF RECURRING ROBBERIES....



AT THE WAYNE HOME....

SO YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE A LOOK AT THE GAMBLING SHIP, HNT?

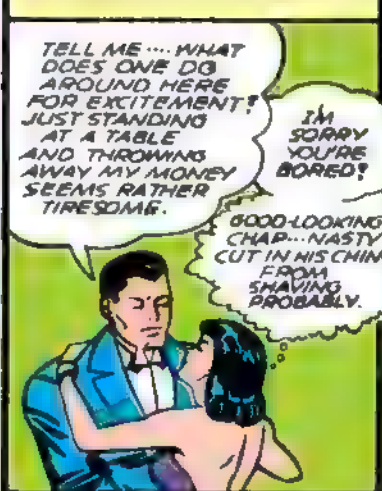


"JUST A NICK"? YET IT IS THIS LITTLE NICK THAT WILL SAVE THE BATMAN FROM DEATH AND ENABLE HIM TO BRING ABOUT THE DOWNFALL OF AN ARCH-CRIMINAL. SUCH IS THE IRONY OF LIFE!

EARLY THAT EVENING, BRUCE IS AMONG THE GUESTS THAT THROU THE GAMBLING SHIP....

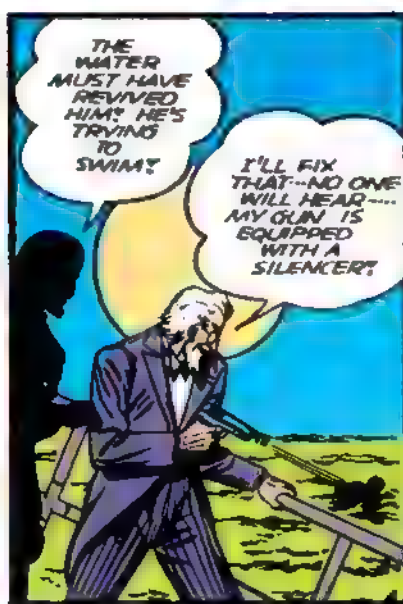
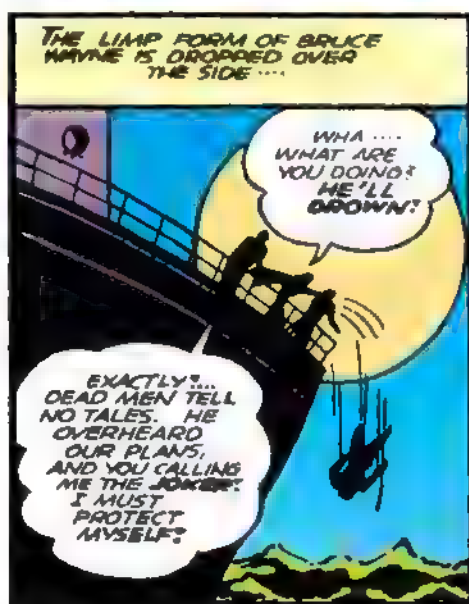
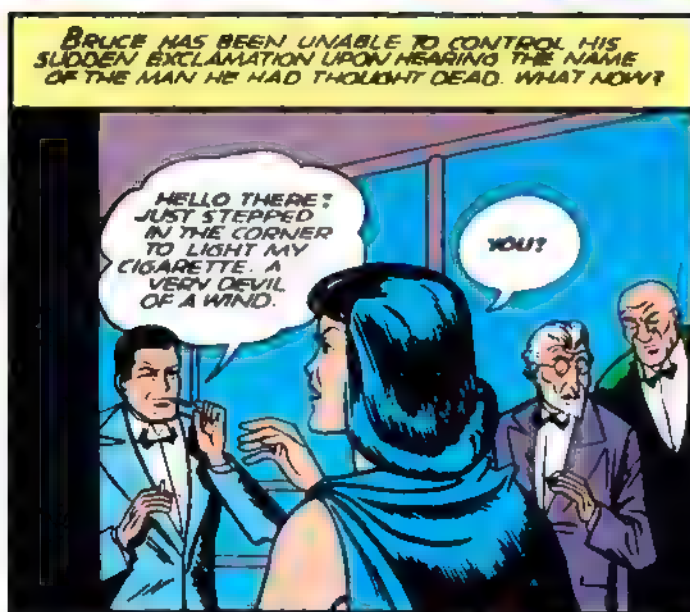
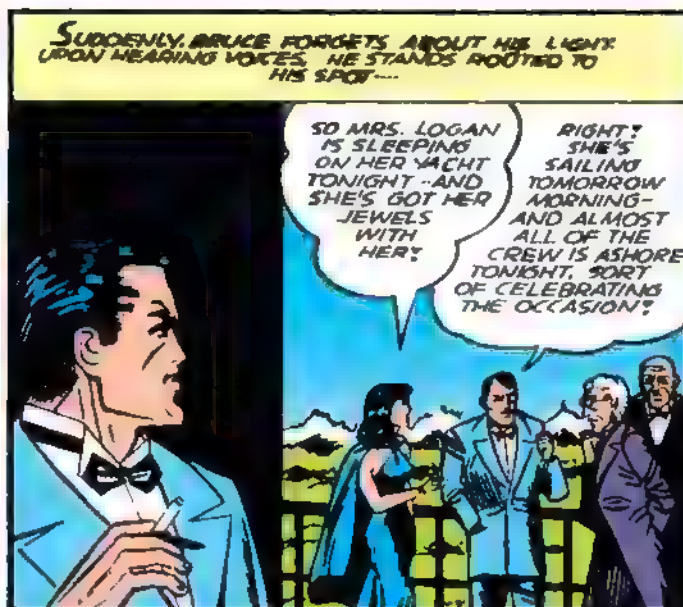


BY CHANCE, HE MAKES THE ACQUAINTANCE OF QUEENIE, WHO ACTS THE PART OF HOSTESS ON THE SHIP....



I DARE SAY YOU'RE ABOUT THE ONLY EXCITING THING ABOARD THIS SHIP. YOU'RE QUITE PRETTY, YOU KNOW.





MOMENTS LATER, A DRIPPING FIGURE CLIMBS ONTO THE WHARF..... IT IS BRUCE WAYNE....

GOOD THING I HAD PRESENCE OF MIND TO PRETEND I WAS HIT. NOW HOME... AND SOME DRY CLOTHES!

AFTER ACQUAINTING YOUNG DICK WITH THE FACTS, HE AND THE BOY DON STRANGE GARB TO BECOME THE BATMAN AND ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER....

THEY RACE THROUGH A SECRET TUNNEL THAT RUNS UNDER THE WAYNE HOME....

....TO A BARN HOUSING A SUPER-CHARGED CAR. THE BATMAN STEPS ON THE THROTTLE AND THE BATMOBILE LEAPS AWAY AND OUT INTO THE NIGHT?

IT RACES THROUGH THE STREETS LIKE A RUNAWAY COMET AND FINALLY SKIDS TO A HALT BEFORE THE LOGAN YACHT....

WE MAY BE TOO LATE!

JUST IN TIME, I SEE!

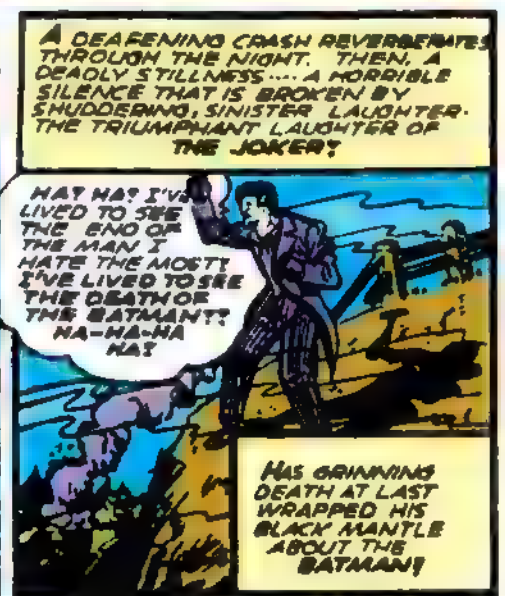
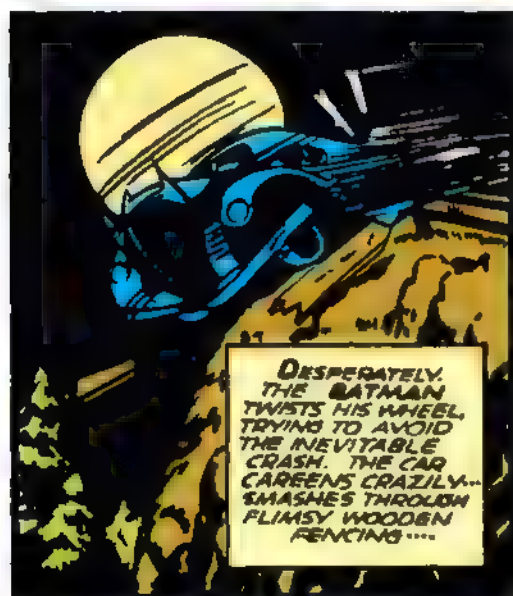
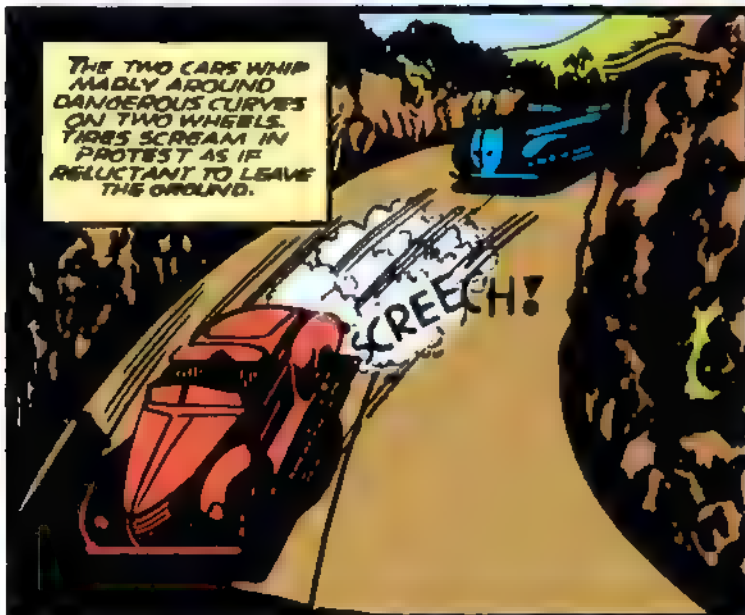
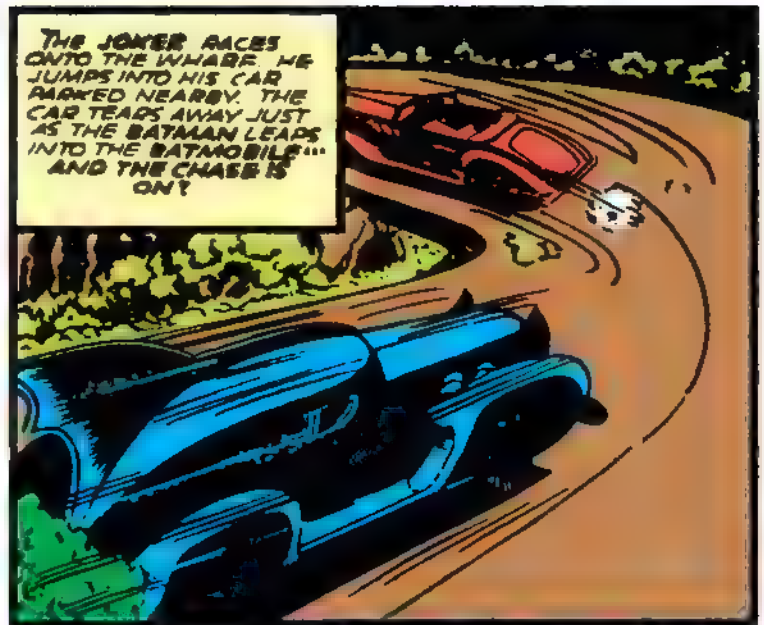
THE BATMAN!

GREETINGS, JOKER? NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN?

BRING THAT POP-GUN BACK TO THE TOY COUNTRY

UGH!

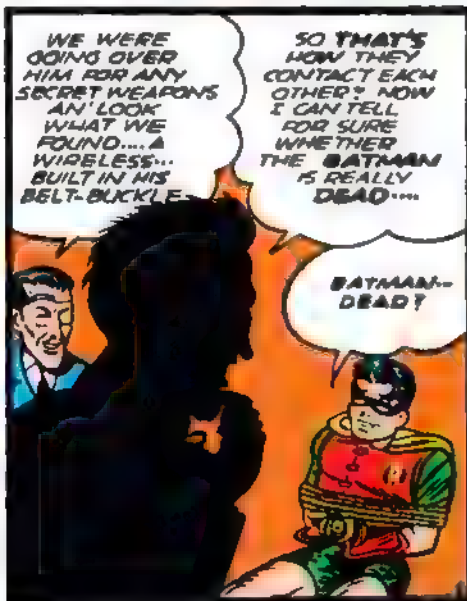
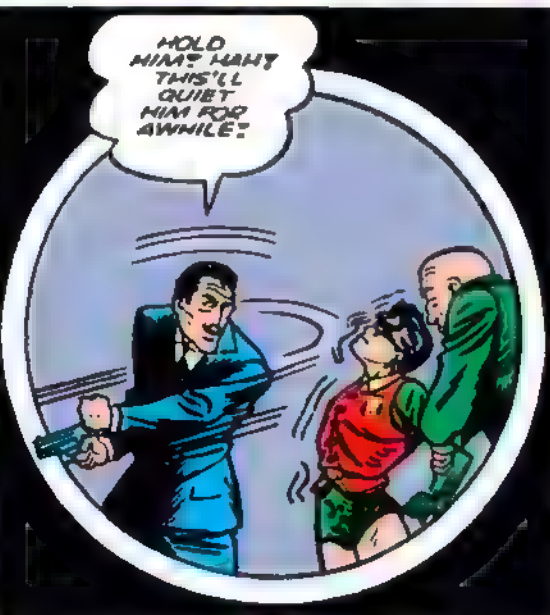


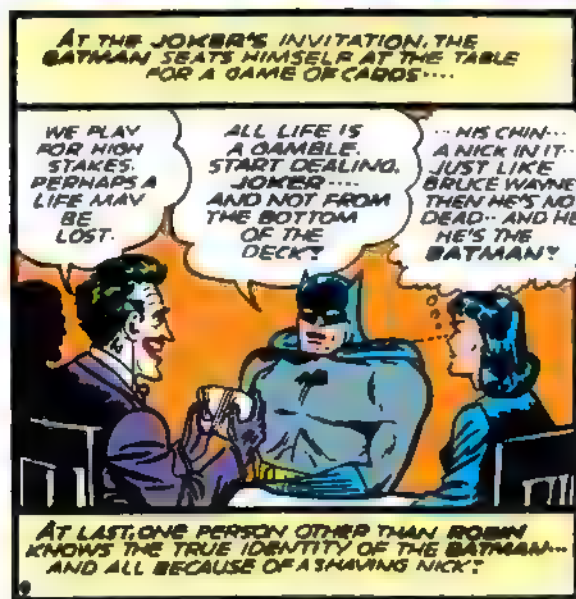
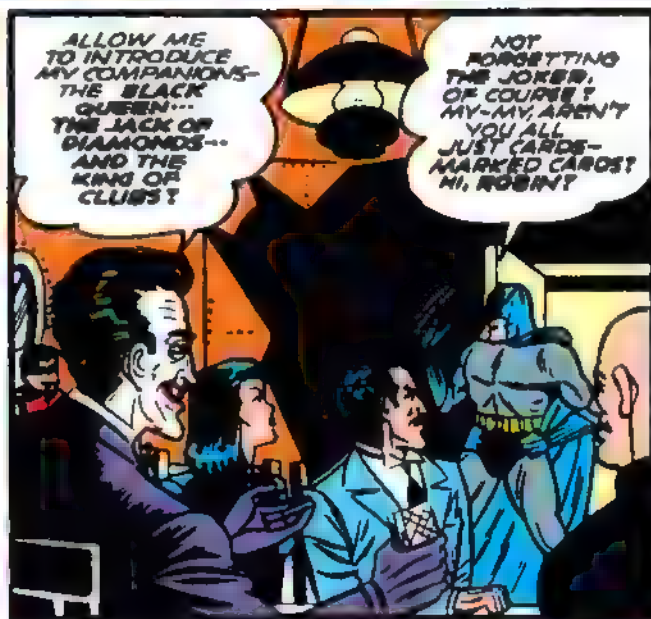
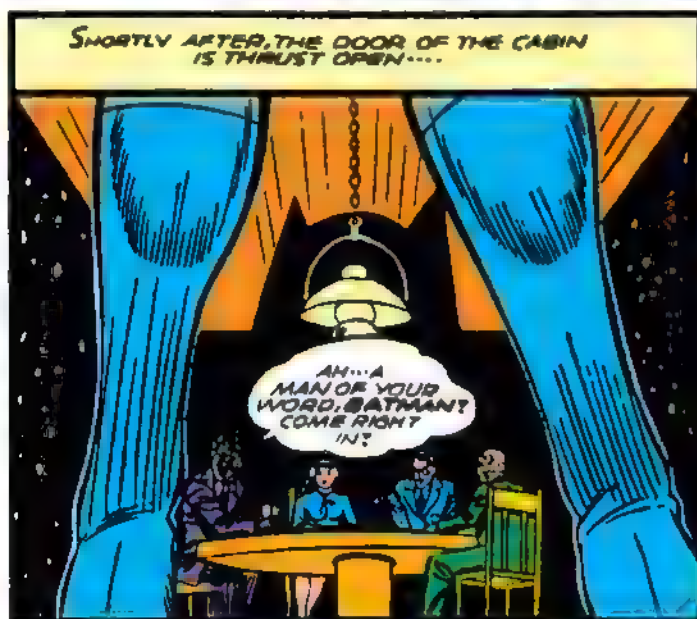
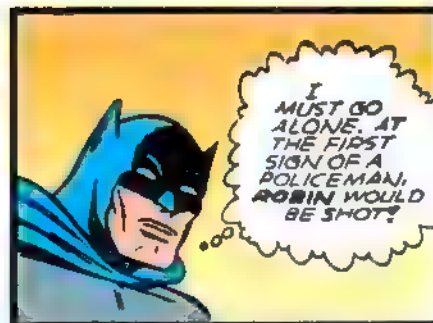


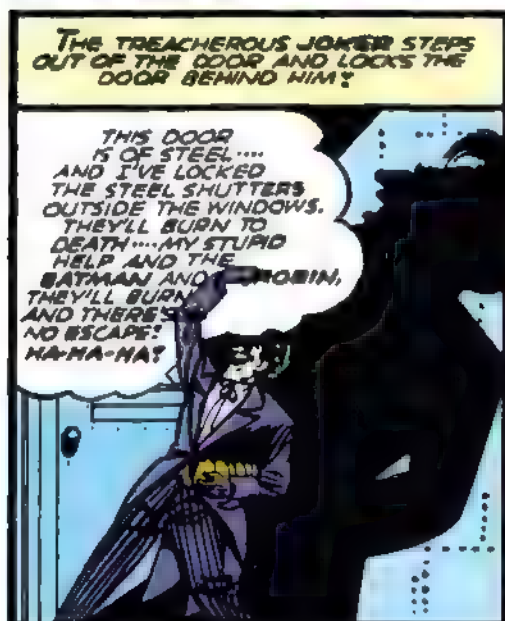
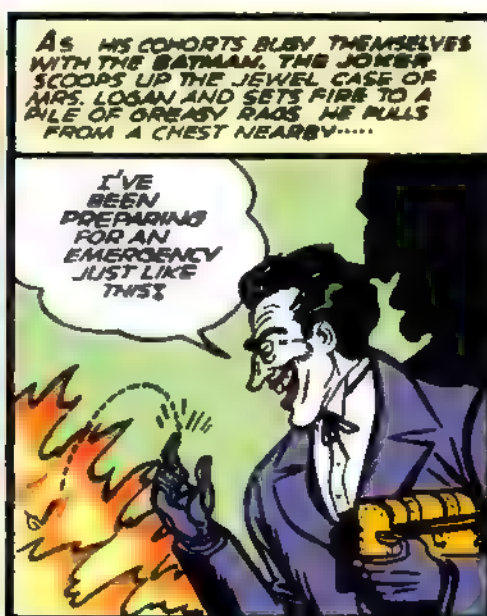
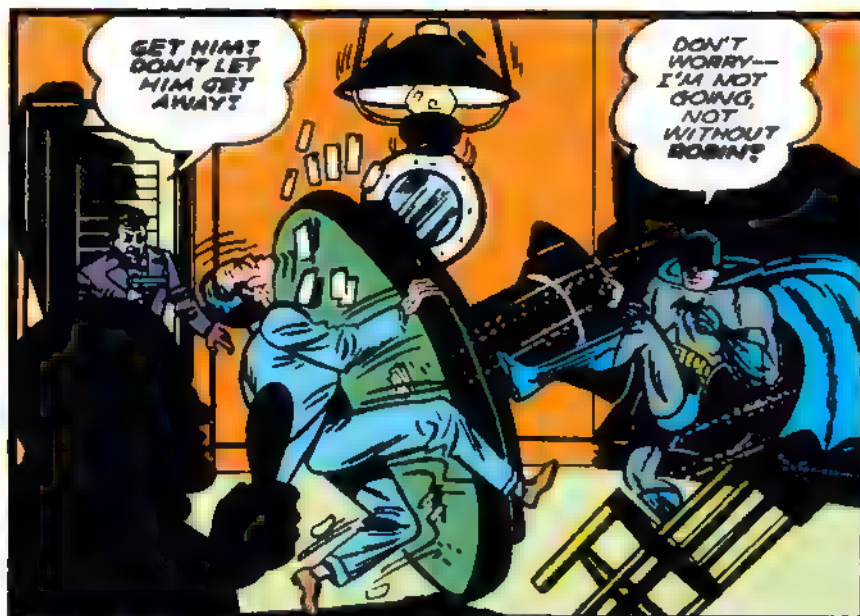
THE JOKER LAUGHS TOO SOON. FOR HANDING FROM A JUTTING BRANCH WHICH HE HAD GRASPED IN HIS DOWNWARD PLUNGE, IS THE BATMAN?

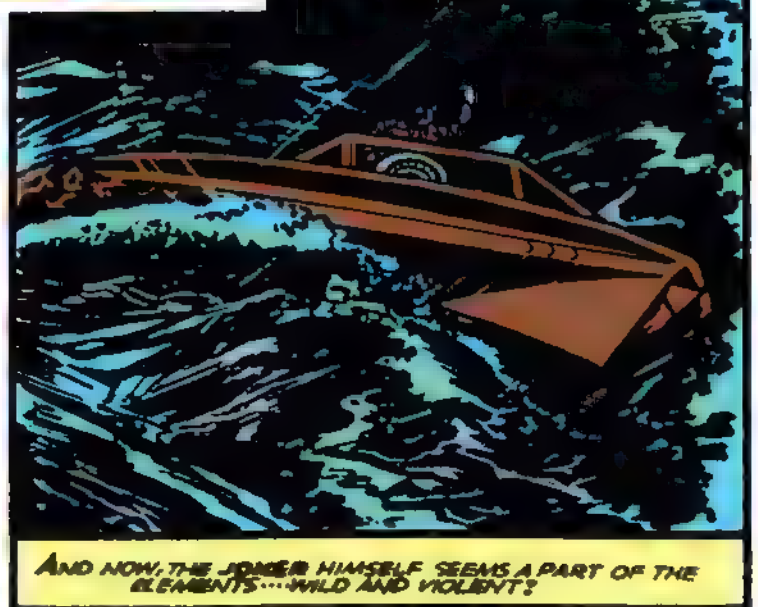
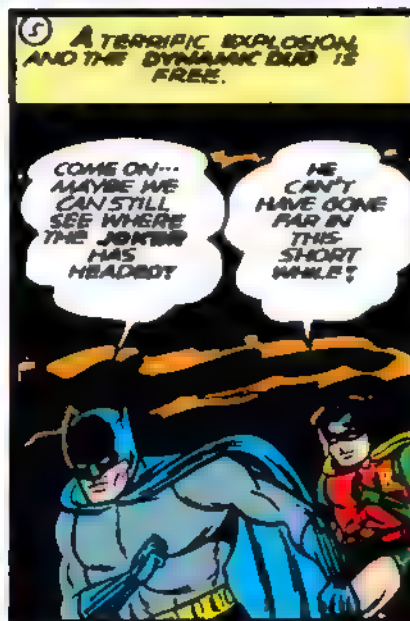
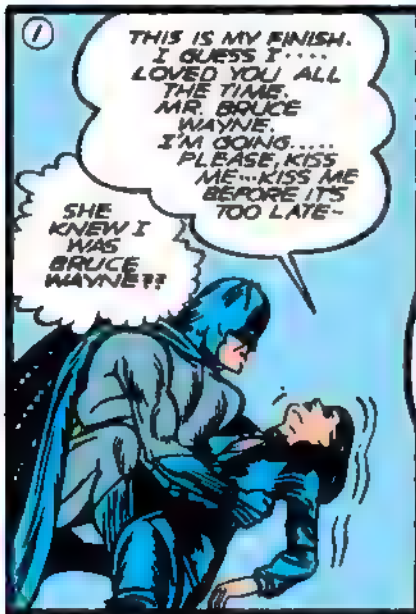


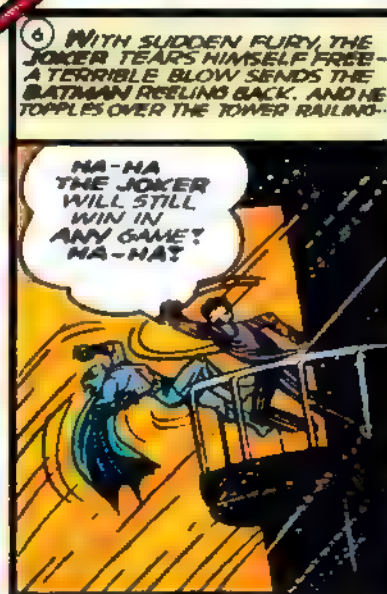
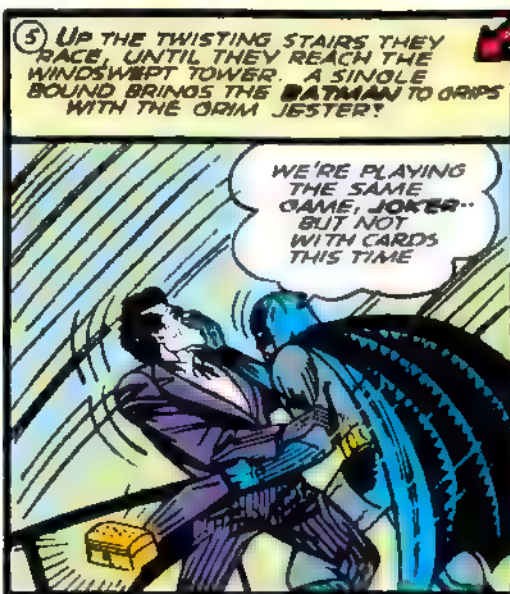
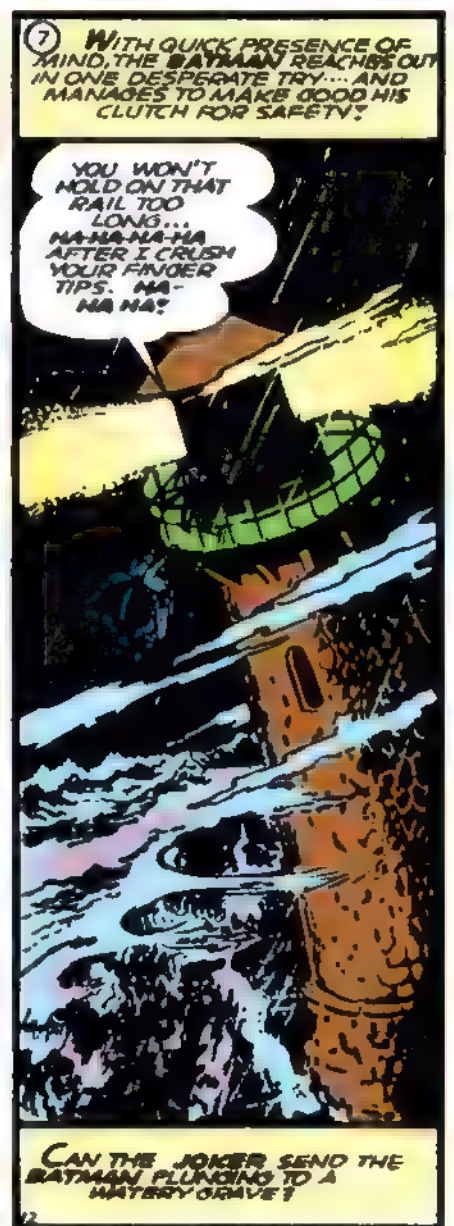
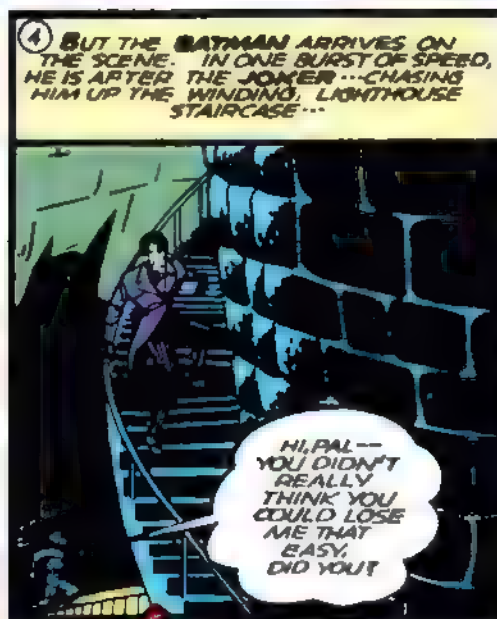
MEANWHILE, ROBIN, TOO, HAS HIS TROUBLES. AS HE STEPS BACK TO AVOID DIAMOND JACK'S GUN, CLUBBY WRAPS HIS HUGE ARMS ABOUT HIM---



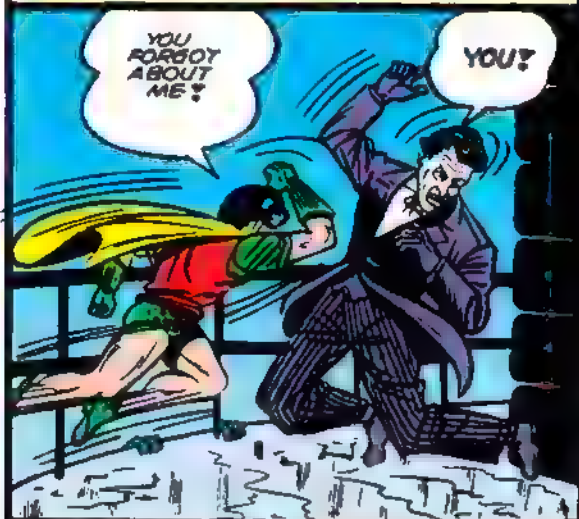








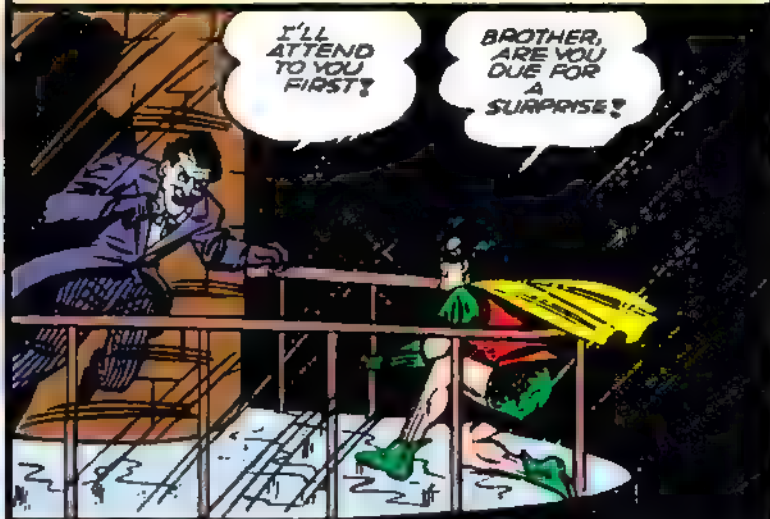
ABRUPTLY, A SMALL FIGURE HURLS HIMSELF AT THE JOKER...IT IS ROBIN THE BOY WONDER!



YOU FORGOT ABOUT ME?

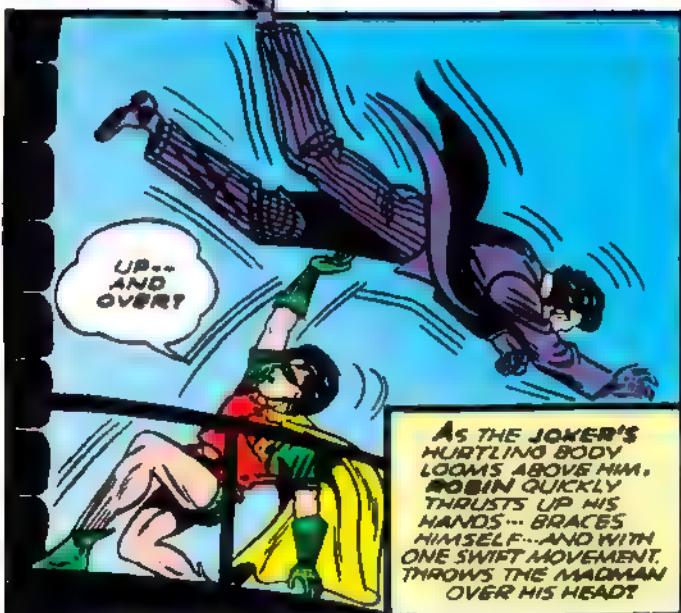
YOU?

ENRAGED, THE KILLER-CLOWN CATAPULTS TOWARD THE BOY WONDER...BUT ROBIN SUDDENLY DROPS TO ONE KNEE...



I'LL ATTEND TO YOU FIRST!

BROTHER, ARE YOU DUE FOR A SURPRISE?



UP-- AND OVERT

AS THE JOKER'S HURLING BODY LOOMS ABOVE HIM, ROBIN QUICKLY THRUSTS UP HIS HANDS... BRACES HIMSELF...AND WITH ONE SWIFT MOVEMENT, THROWS THE MADMAN OVER HIS HEAD!



OUT INTO EMPTY SPACE FLIES THE JOKER...AND DOWN, DOWN HE PLUNGES, HIS BODY TWISTING AND TURNING.....

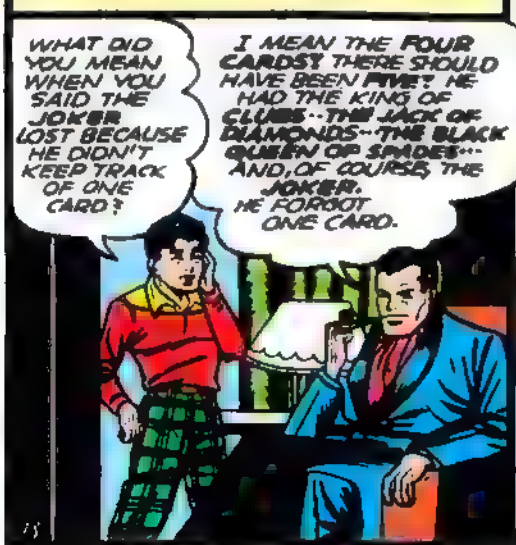


...DOWN INTO THE GREEDY WATERS THAT SWALLOW UP HIS HURLING FORM?

THIS IS ONE GAME THE JOKER LOST!

...AND HE LOST BECAUSE HE LOST TRACK OF ONE CARD... BUT NEVER MIND THAT...LET'S RETURN THESE JEWELS!

LATER THAT EVENING....

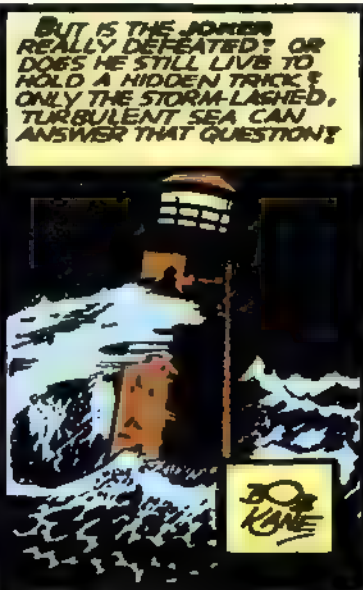


WHAT DID YOU MEAN WHEN YOU SAID THE JOKER LOST BECAUSE HE DIDN'T KEEP TRACK OF ONE CARD?

I MEAN THE FOUR CARDS THERE SHOULD HAVE BEEN FIVE! HE HAD THE KING OF CLUBS--THE JACK OF DIAMONDS--THE BLACK QUEEN OF SPADES--AND, OF COURSE, THE JOKER. HE FORGOT ONE CARD.



...HE FORGOT ABOUT HEARTS...AND THERE WAS A HEART...THE HEART OF THAT GIRL WHO DIED BACK THERE. HE DIDN'T COUNT ON THAT...AND THAT DEFEATED HIM.



BUT IS THE JOKER REALLY DEFEATED? OR DOES HE STILL LIVE TO HOLD A HIDDEN TRICK? ONLY THE STORM-LASHED, TURBULENT SEA CAN ANSWER THAT QUESTION!

BOB KANE

BATMAN

WITH
Robin
-THE BOY WONDER-

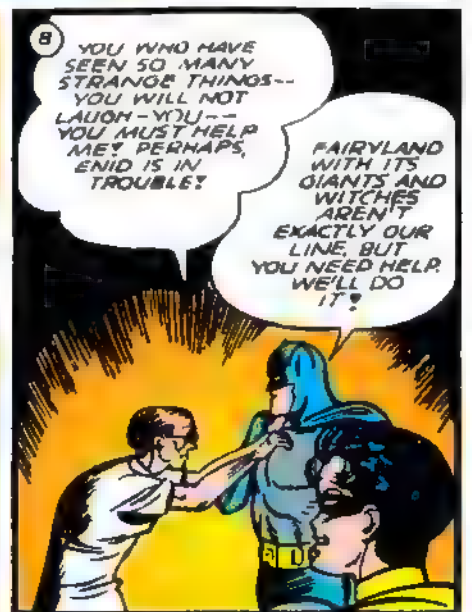
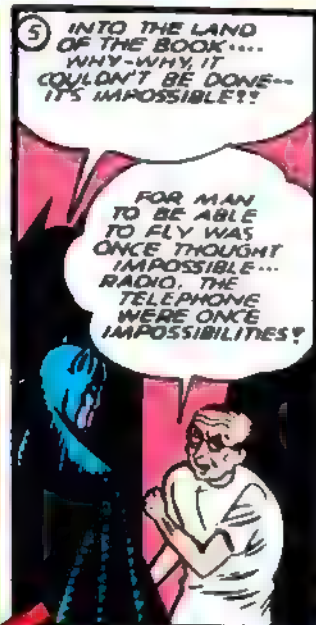
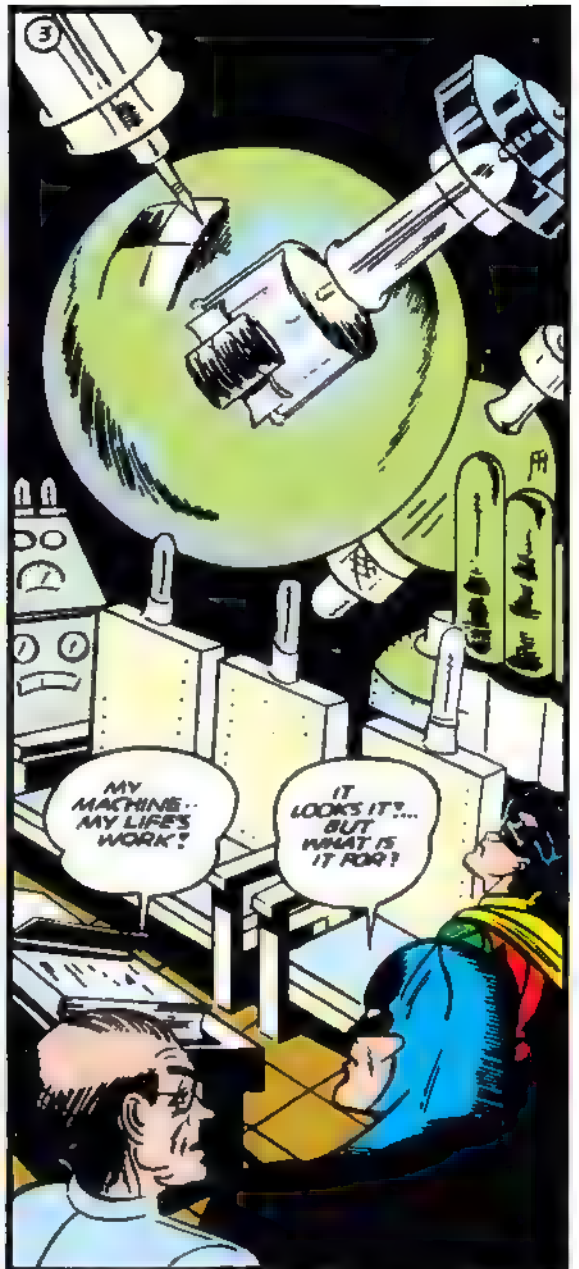
By
BOB KANE

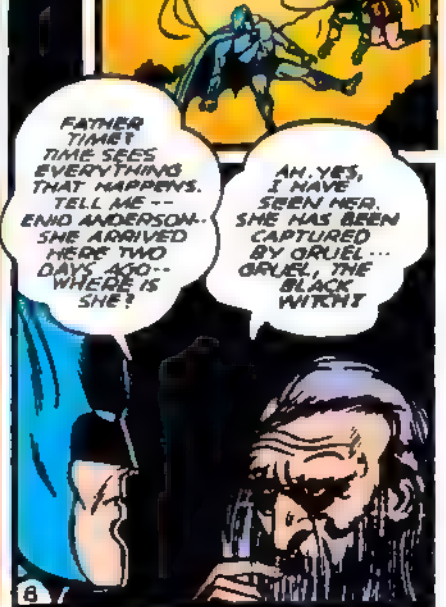
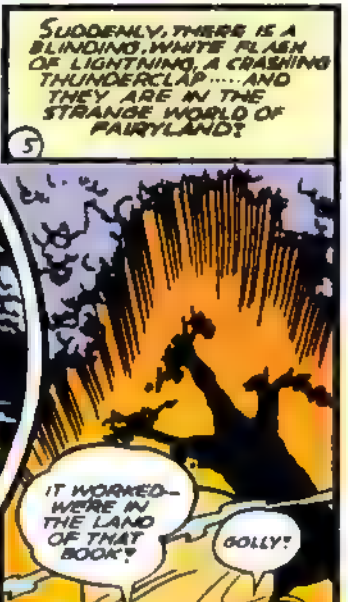
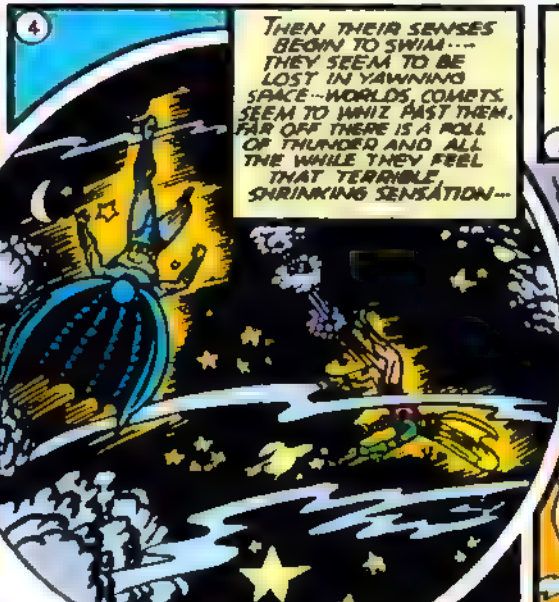
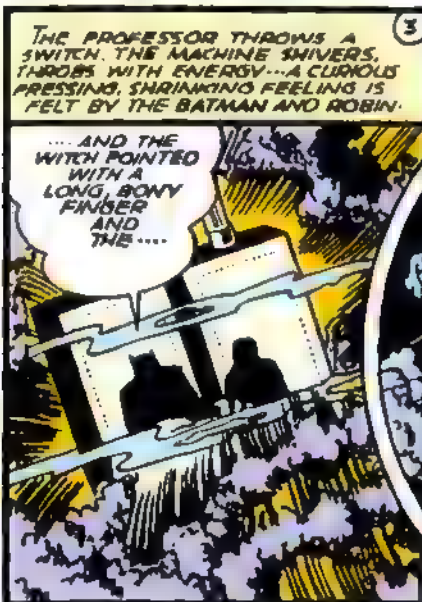
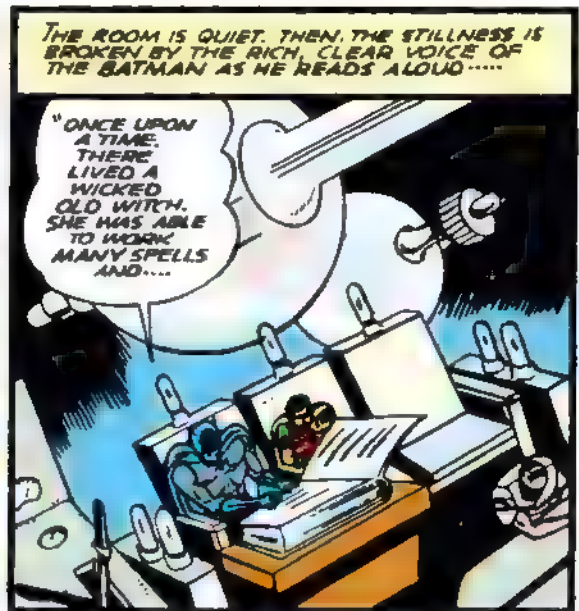
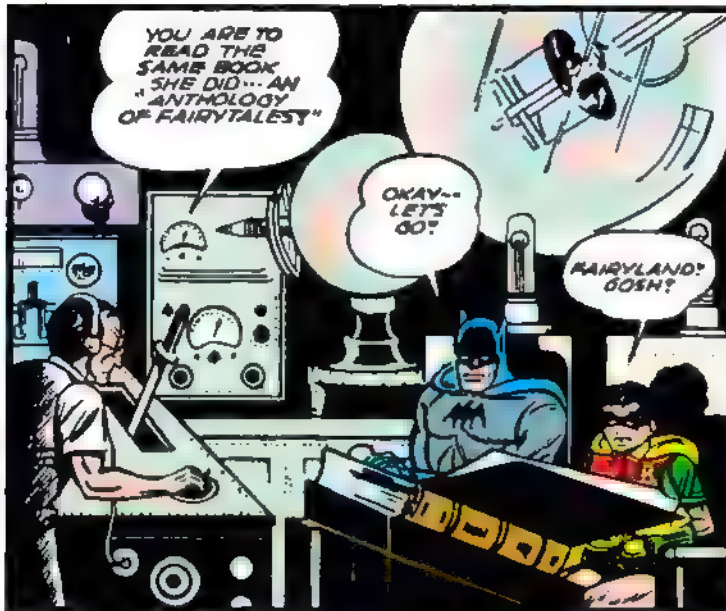


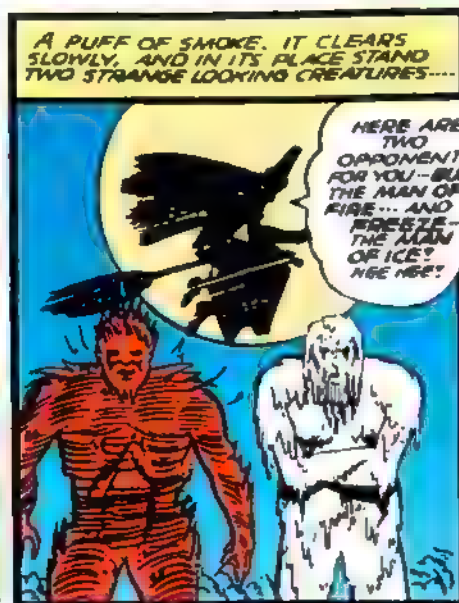
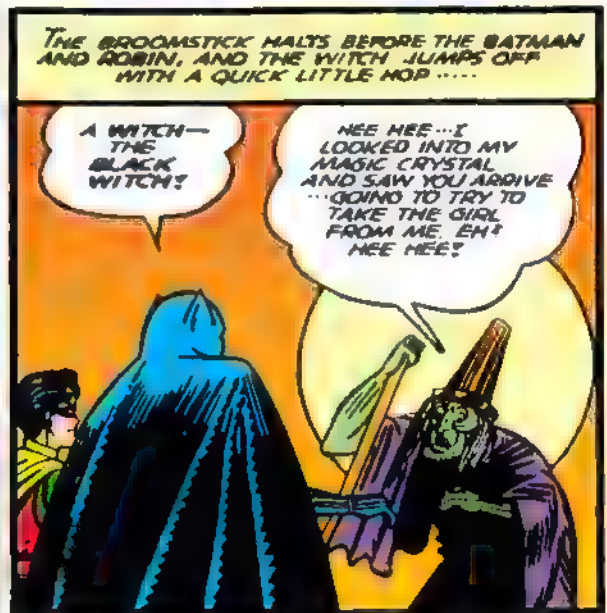
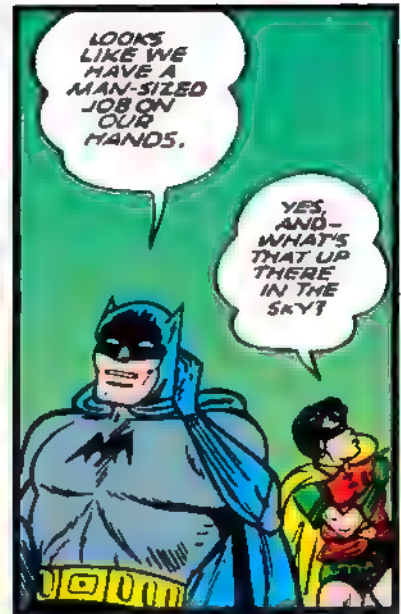
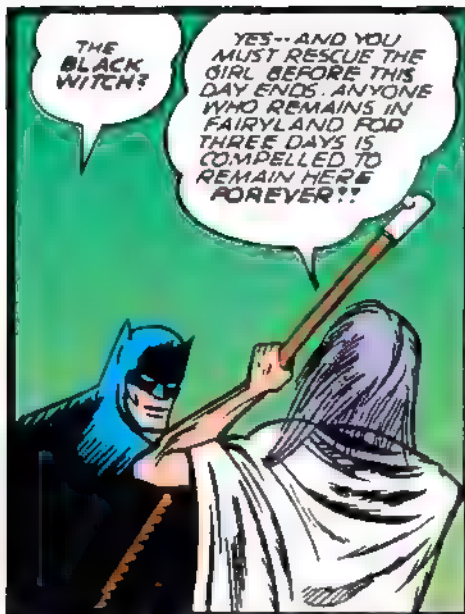
MANY OF US HAVE READ TALES OF FAIRYLAND.....THAT STRANGE LAND OF FANTASY AND WITCHCRAFT... AND HOW MANY OF US HAVE OFTEN WONDERED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF WE SHOULD BE SUDDENLY TRANSPORTED INTO THAT BIZARRE LAND--IT IS THE BATMAN AND ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER, WHO FIND THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION WHEN THEY ENTER INTO... "BOOK OF ENCHANTMENT"

ONE NIGHT, AS THE BATMAN AND ROBIN FOLLOW A HOMEWARD PATH, THEY SEE TWO SNEAK THIEVES ABOUT TO CLIMB INTO A HOUSE. WITHOUT A MOMENT'S HESITATION, THE DYNAMIC DUO CHARGES FORWARD TO DO BATTLE WITH THESE MEN OF CRIME.

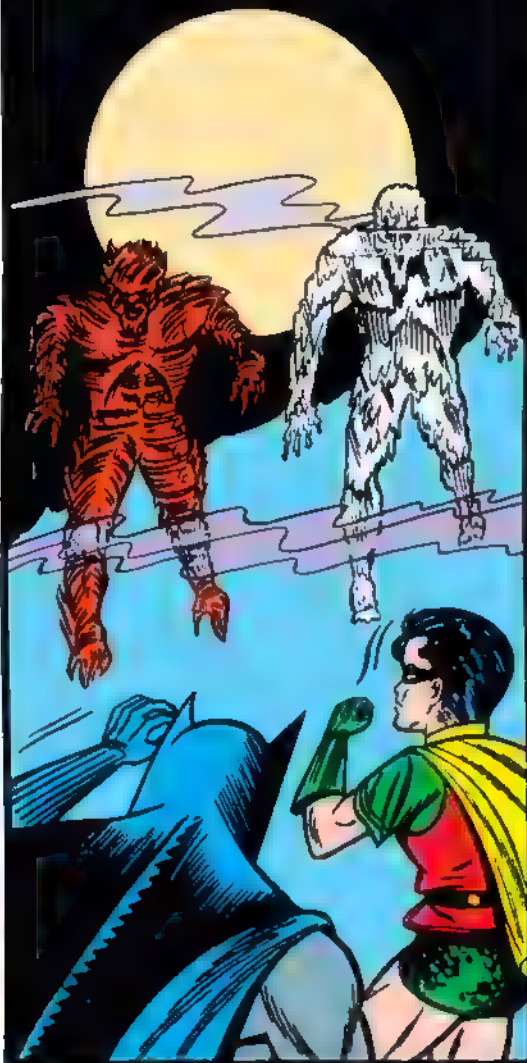








① NEARER COME THE STRANGE ANTAGONISTS OF THE BATMAN AND ROBIN.....



② AS THE MAN OF FIRE APPROACHES HIM, THE BATMAN FINDS IT NECESSARY TO SHIELD HIMSELF FROM THE HEAT THAT SEARS HIS EYEBALLS.....

THE HEAT... THE TERRIBLE HEAT!

COME--WE WRESTLE!



③ SUDDENLY, THE MAN OF FIRE LEAPS.....

NOW I MAKE YOU WRESTLE!

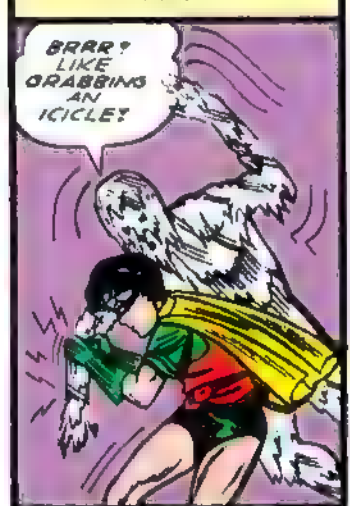


④ QUICK AS THOUGHT, THE BATMAN DROPS TO THE GROUND... HIS OUT-THRUST FOOT TRIPS THE MAN OF FIRE.....



⑤ WHILE AT THAT VERY INSTANT, THE MAN OF ICE LUNGES AT THE BOYWONDER WHO SIDESTEPS AND.....

BRRR! LIKE GRABBING AN ICICLE!



⑥ IN ONE SPLIT-SECOND MOVEMENT, ROBIN HURLS THE MAN OF ICE OVER HIS SHOULDER... ONTO THE SPRAWLED MAN OF FIRE??

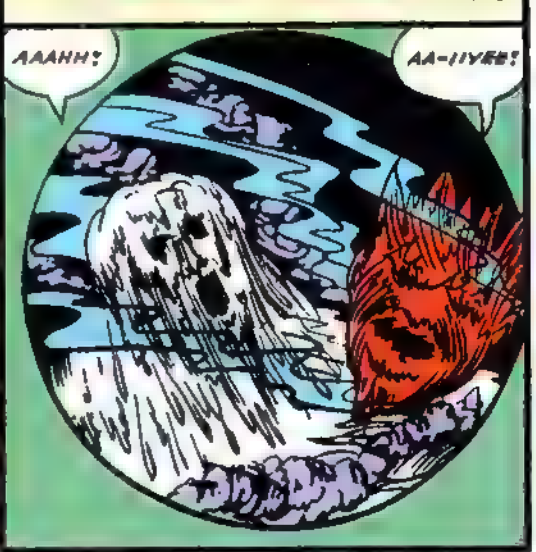
NICE GOING, KID!



⑦ INSTANTLY, STEAM RISES FROM THEM... SCREAMS COME FROM THEIR OPEN MOUTHS...

AAHHH?

AA-I-I-VEES?



...AND IN A MOMENT ALL THAT IS LEFT IS A PILE OF SMOKING ASHES AND A POOL OF WATER...

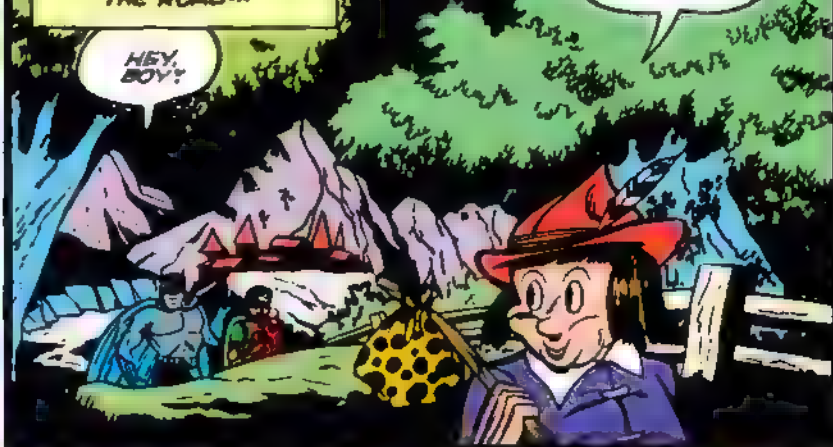
THE MAN OF FIRE MELTED THE MAN OF ICE AND THE WATER IN TURN PUT OUT THE MAN OF FIRE?



OUR TWO TRAVELERS CONTINUE ON THEIR JOURNEY. AT LAST, THEY STOP BEFORE A YOUNG BOY WHO SKIPS MERRILY ALONG THE ROAD...

HEY, BOY?

CAN'T STOP NOW, MISTER. I'M SIMPLE SIMON, AND I'M ON MY WAY TO THE FAIR!



LOOK, SIMP-- I MEAN SIMON-- IS THIS THE ROAD TO THE CASTLE OF THE BLACK WITCH?

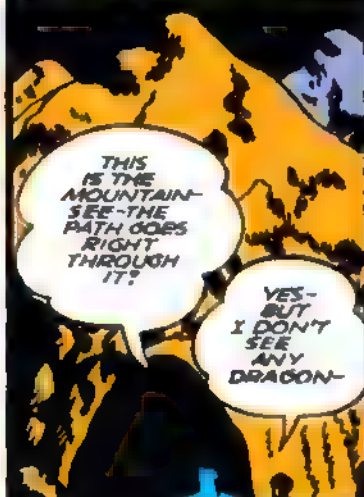
YEP-- BUT YA GOTTA FOLLY IT THROUGH THE MOUNTAIN. THE GREAT DRAGON GUARDS IT! GOOD LUCK HAW-HAW!



ON THEY TRAVEL TILL THEY COME TO THE MOUNTAIN OF THE DRAGON...

THIS IS THE MOUNTAIN-- SEE THE PATH GOES RIGHT THROUGH IT?

YES-- BUT I DON'T SEE ANY DRAGON--



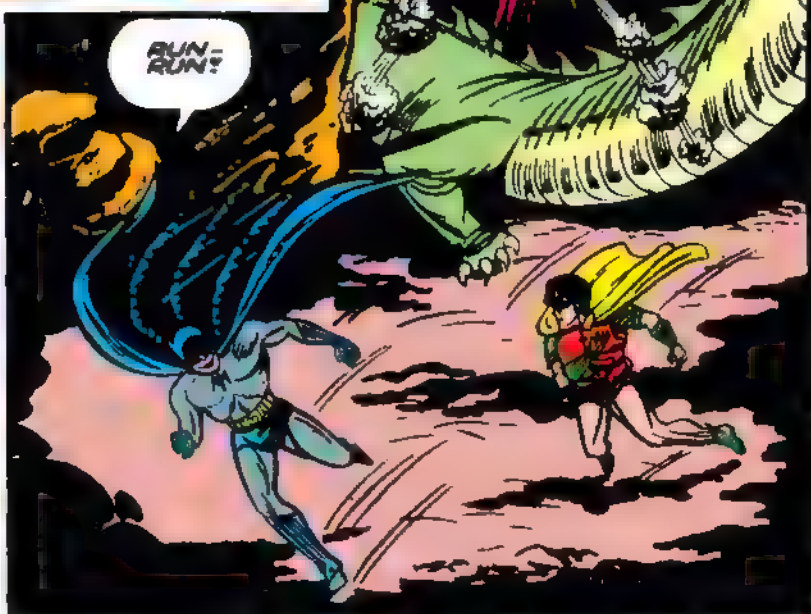
...AND THEY ARE FORCED TO FLEE FOR THEIR LIVES. THE DRAGON HAS EMERGED!

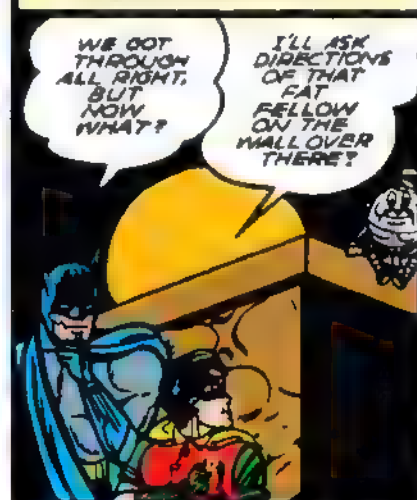
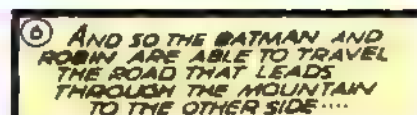
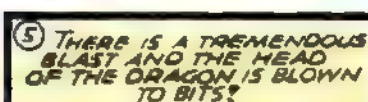
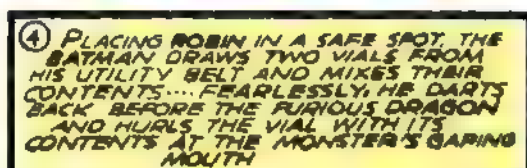
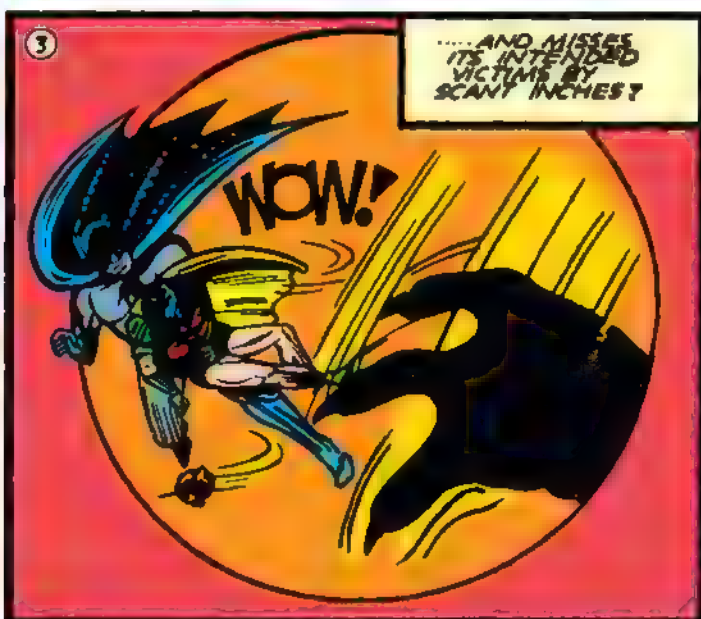


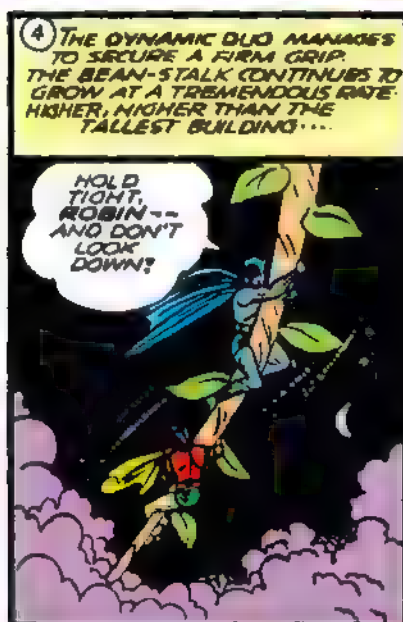
CAUTIOUSLY, THEY ADVANCE TOWARD THE HOLE-- SUDDENLY, THEY HEAR A BELLOWING ROAR-- THERE IS A SMELL OF SULPHUR...

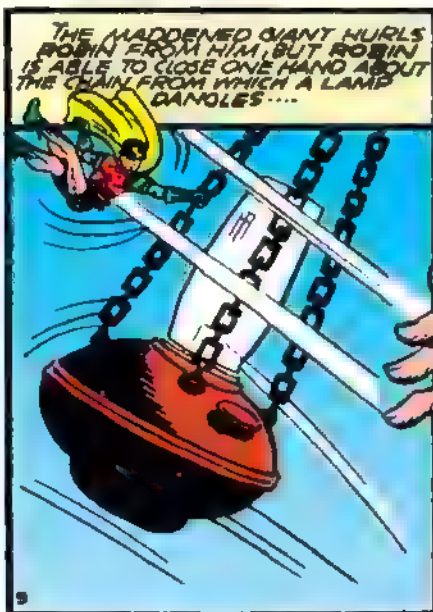


RUN-- RUN!





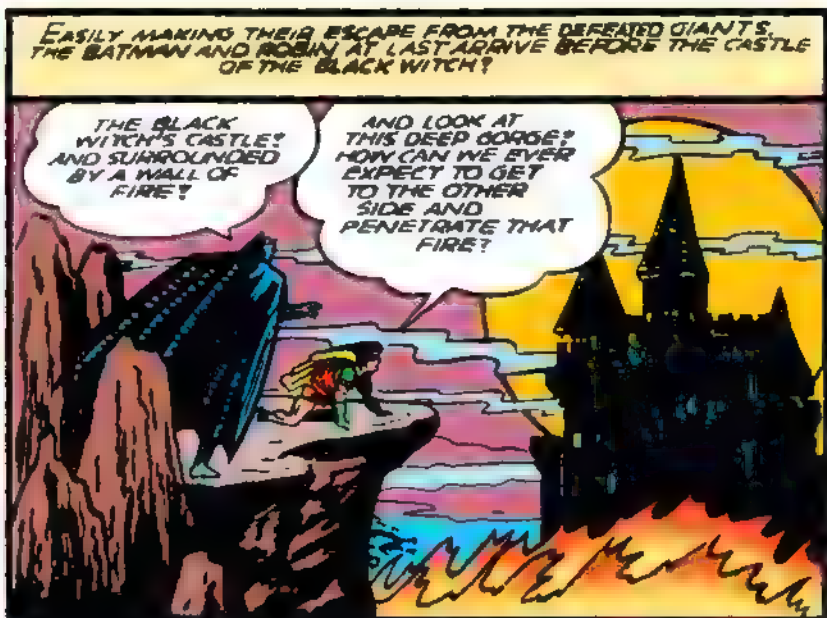






NOW
I GOT
YOU?

OOPS--
YOU
MISSED!

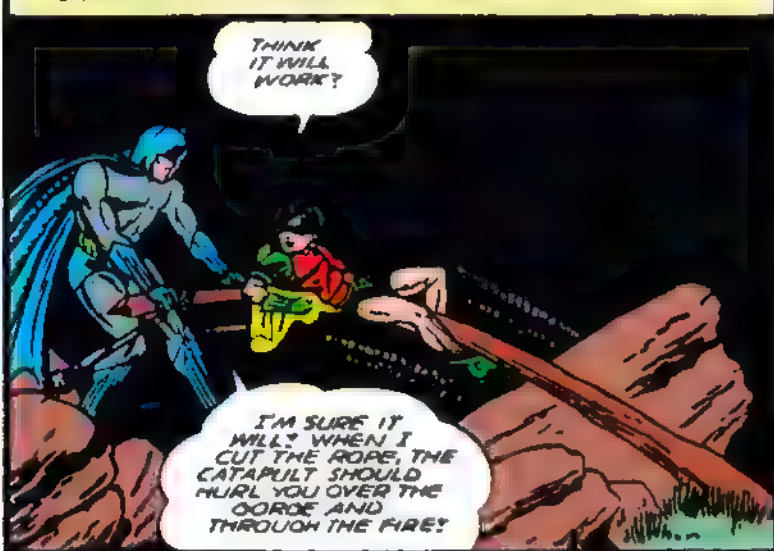


EASILY MAKING THEIR ESCAPE FROM THE DEFEATED GIANTS,
THE BATMAN AND ROBIN AT LAST ARRIVE BEFORE THE CASTLE
OF THE BLACK WITCH?

THE BLACK
WITCH'S CASTLE?
AND SURROUNDED
BY A WALL OF
FIRE?

AND LOOK AT
THIS DEEP GORGE?
HOW CAN WE EVER
EXPECT TO GET
TO THE OTHER
SIDE AND
PENETRATE THAT
FIRE?

THE BATMAN GIVES DIRECTIONS, AND HE AND ROBIN
PROCEED TO BEND DOWN A SPRINGY SAPLING---THE SAPLING
IS TIED DOWN, AND PROVIDES A RUDE CATAPULT?



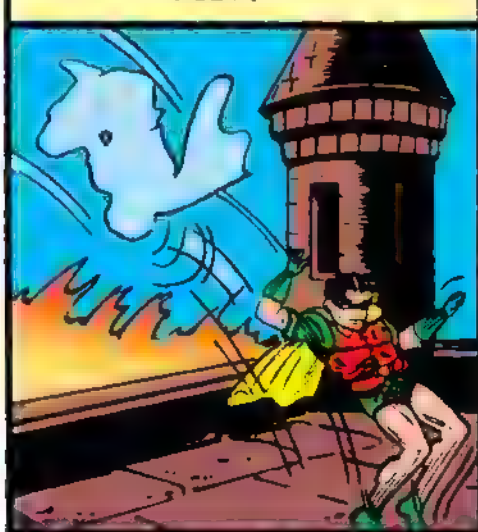
THINK
IT WILL
WORK?

I'M SURE IT
WILL! WHEN I
CUT THE ROPE, THE
CATAPULT SHOULD
HURL YOU OVER THE
GORGE AND
THROUGH THE FIRE!

BREATHING A SILENT PRAYER, THE
BATMAN CUTS THE ROPE? THE
SAPLING SPRINGS UPWARD AND
ROBIN STREAKS THROUGH THE AIR
LIKE A RELEASED ARROW!



THE BOY WONDER TWISTS HIS
BODY IN MIDAIR AND LANDS CAT-
LIKE ON THE BALLS OF HIS
FEET?



THE BATMAN PREPARES TO
TRAVEL THE SAME,
DANGEROUS WAY--



HERE
GOES
NOTHING?

AGAIN A FORM IS FLUNG
THROUGH THE BARRIER OF
FIRE.....



① BUT EVEN AS THE BATMAN ALIGHTS, HIGH UP IN ONE OF THE TOWERS, THE BLACK WITCH IS BENDING OVER A POT OF BOILING WATER....



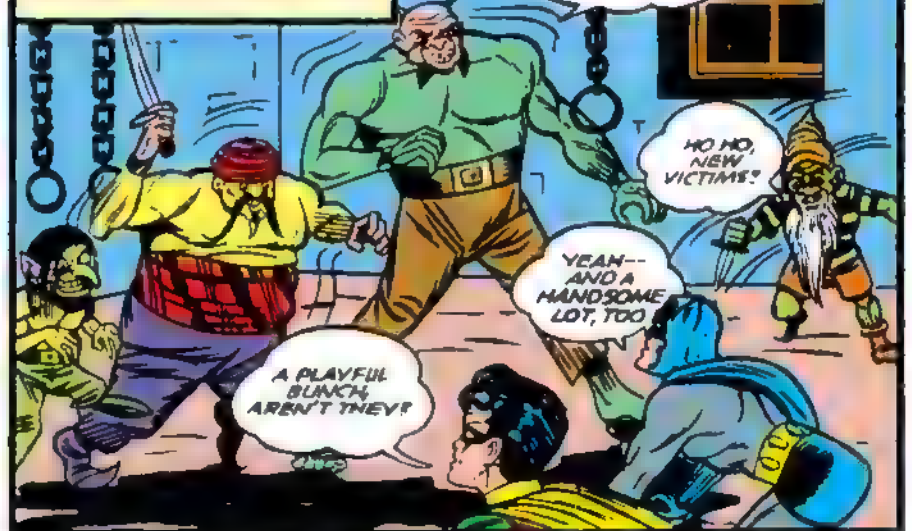
② AND A FEW MINUTES LATER, AS THE WITCH LEANS TOWARD THE GIRL, SUDDENLY SHE WHIRLS AND SEES....



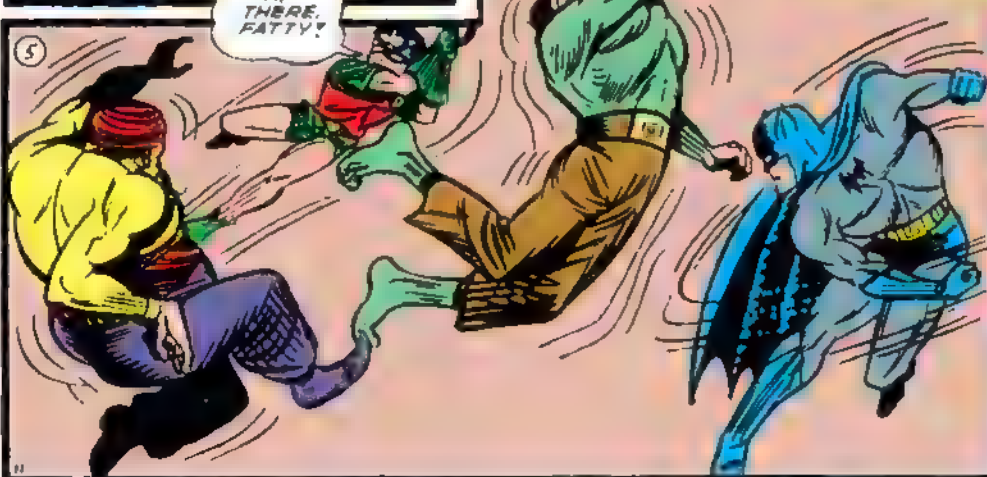
③ BUT THE WITCH IS QUICK---ONE SWIFT MOTION OF HER BONY HANDS AND THE STAIRS SUDDENLY BECOME SMOOTH---DOWN TUMBLE THE BATMAN AND ROBIN---



④ ...A STONE MOVES IN THE FLOOR---THEY TUMBLE THROUGH INTO THE TORTURE DUNGEON OF THE BLACK WITCH.

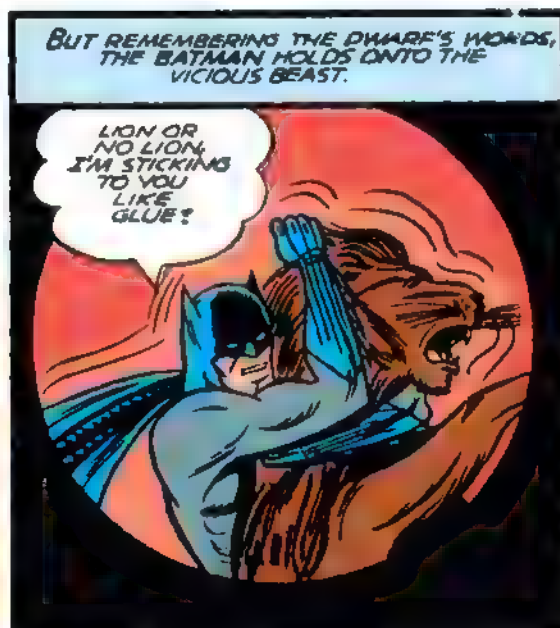
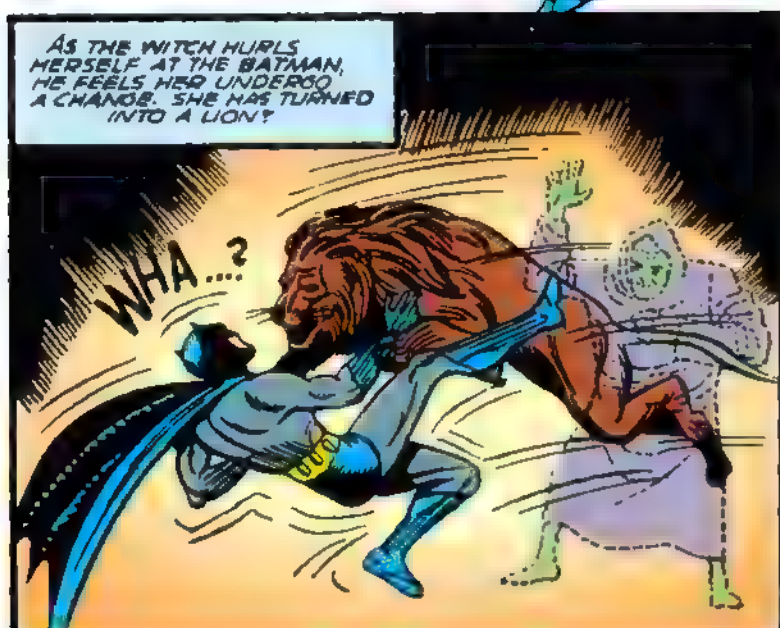
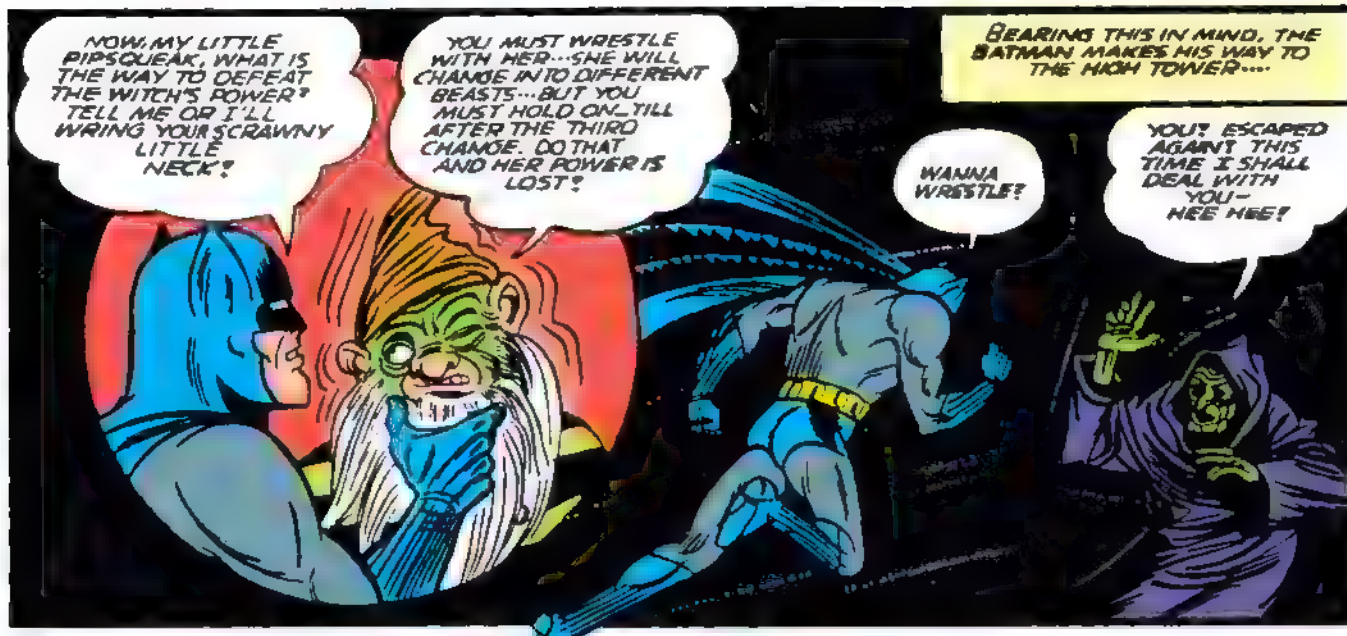


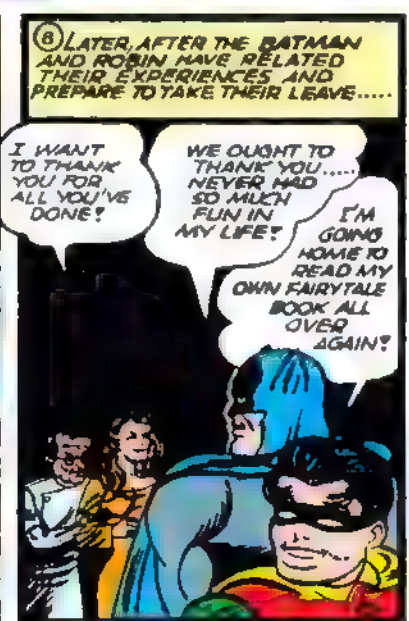
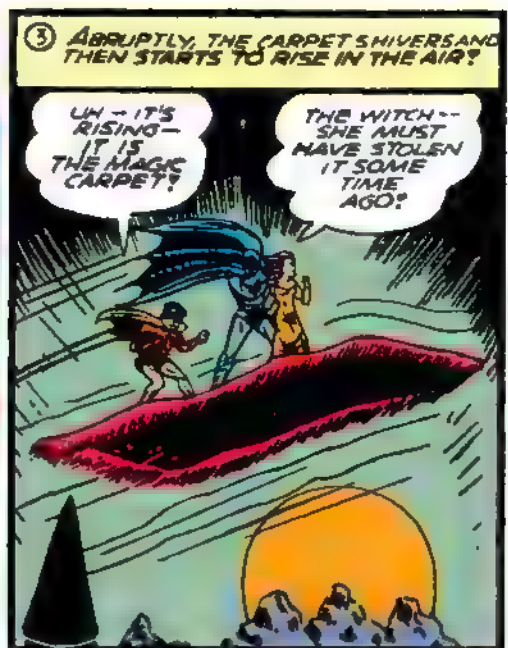
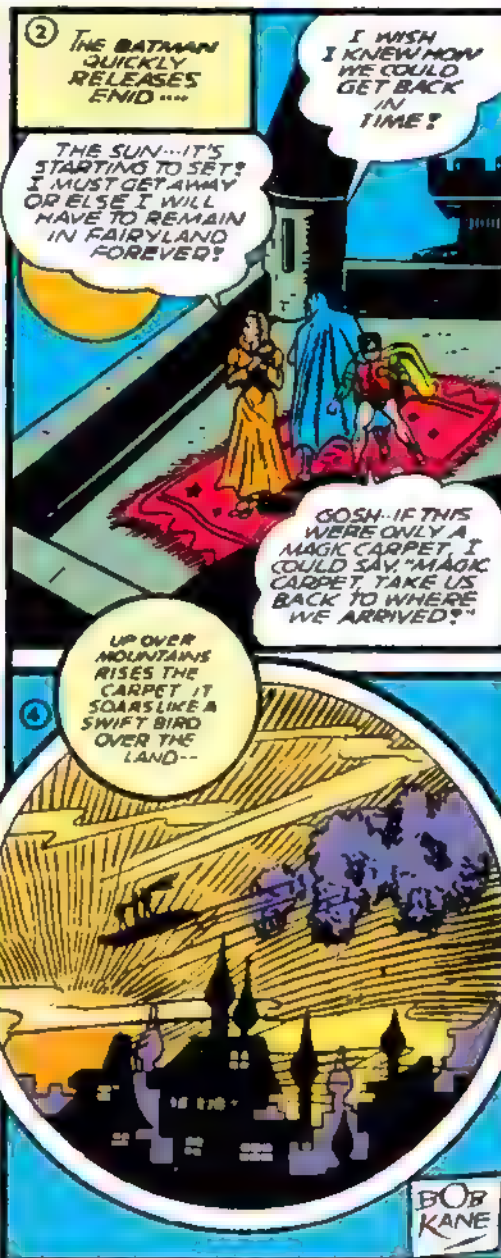
THE DYNAMIC DUO IS NOT TO BE TAKEN SO EASILY--



⑥ NOW TO CRACK A COUPLE OF NUTS?





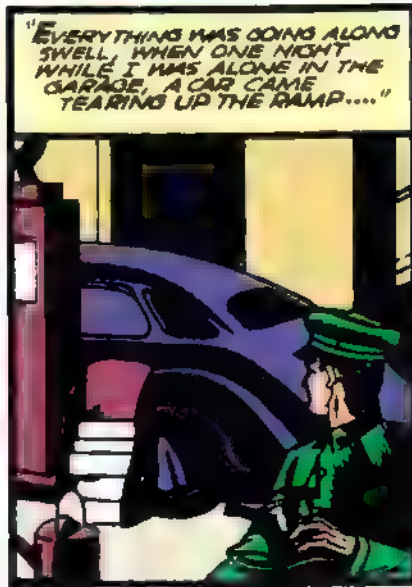
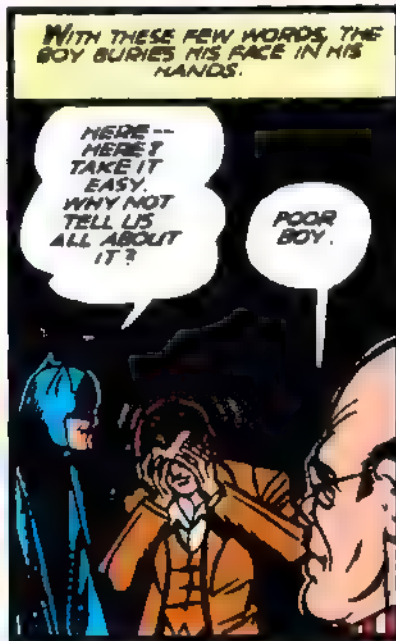
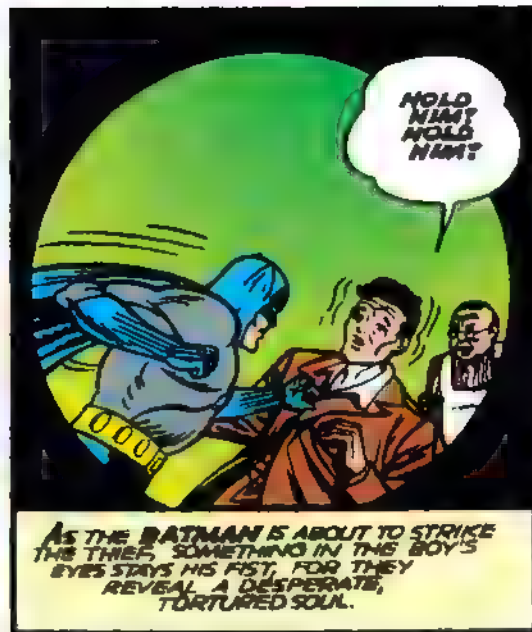


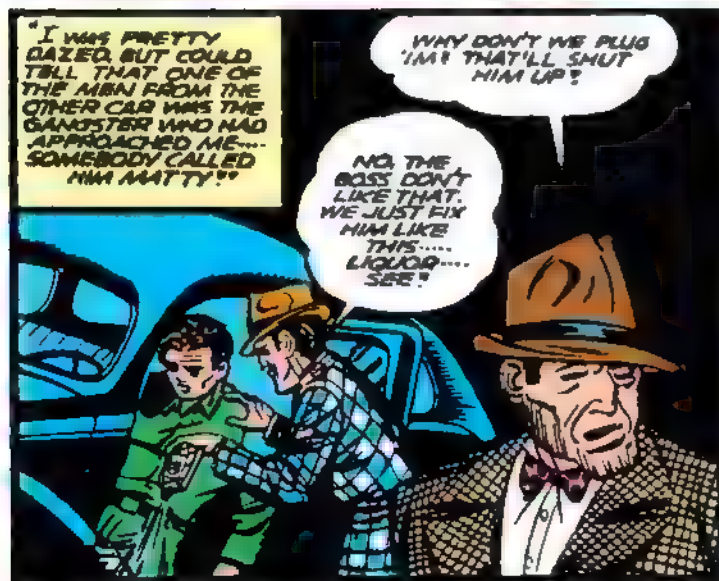
WITH
Robin
- THE BOY WONDER -

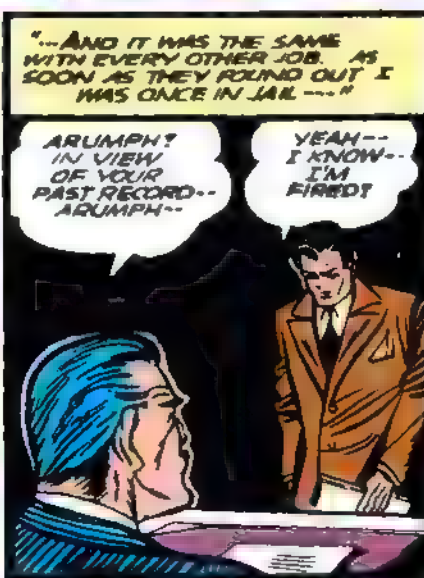
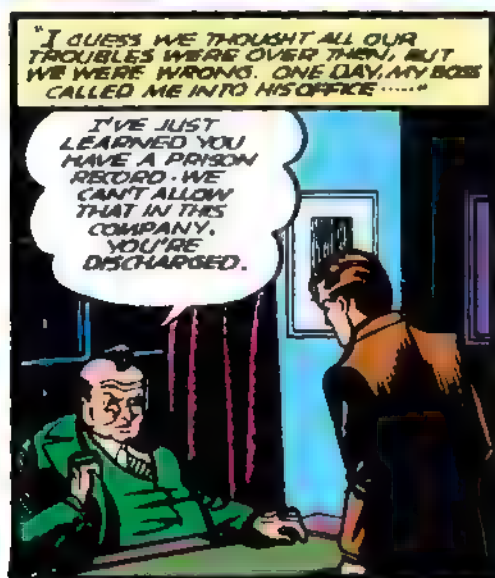
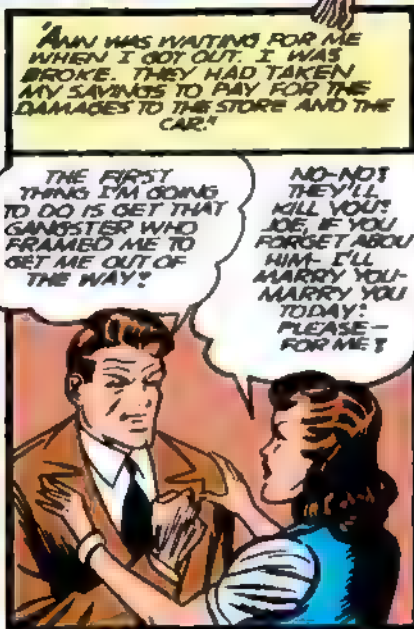
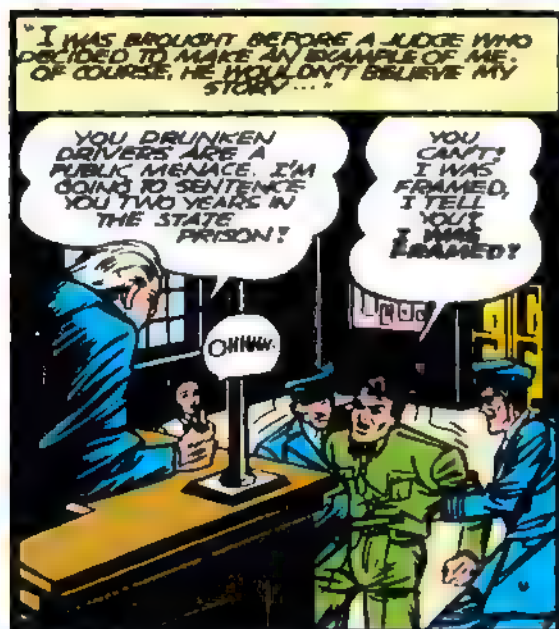
THERE IS A TIME WHEN
JUSTICE IS BLIND, WHEN
THE TIME
THE LONG ARM OF THE LAW
POINTS AN ACCUSING FINGER
AT AN INNOCENT MAN. THIS
IS THE STORY OF SUCH A MAN...
A MAN WHO, BECAUSE OF THE
LAW'S WRONG JUDGMENT,
ALMOST BECAME A CRIMINAL.
BUT FOR THE TIMELY
INTERVENTION OF THE
BATMAN AND ROBIN,
THE BOY WONDER. FOR,
IT WAS THEY WHO GAVE
HIM BACK HIS SELF-RESPECT
AND WEEDED OUT THE
EVIL THAT WAS TO BE
FOUND IN THE HONEST
CROOK.

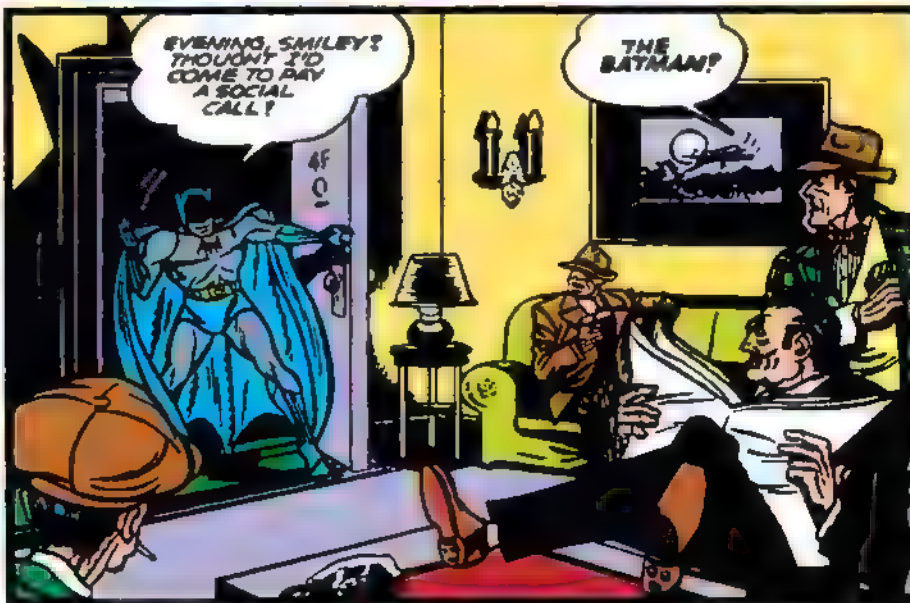
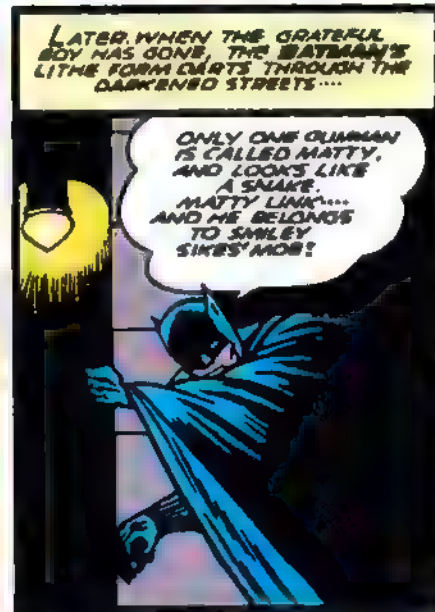
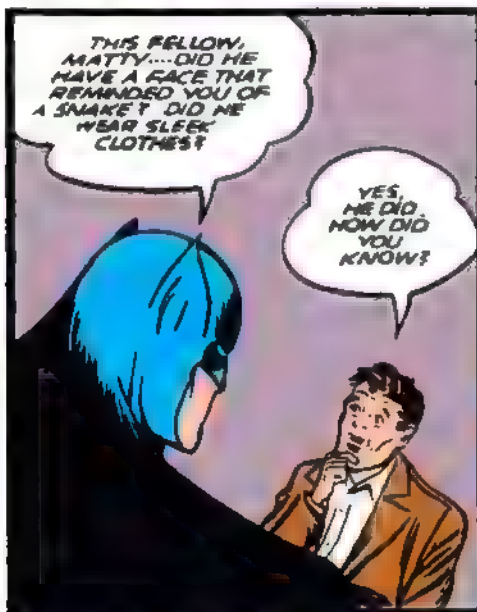
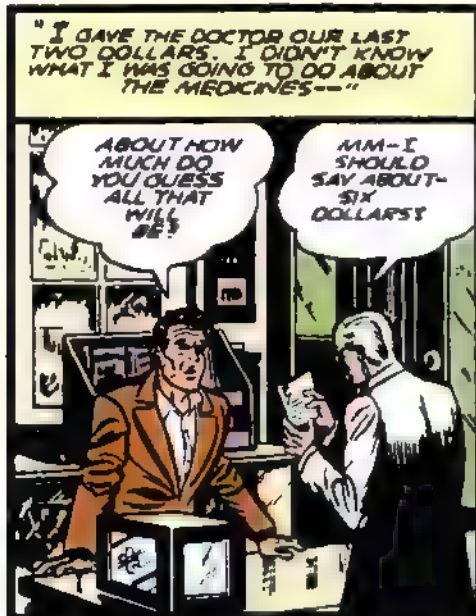
A CRY CUTS SHARPLY THROUGH THE MIDNIGHT AIR. A THIEF FLEES IN PANIC FROM THE SCENE OF HIS CRIME, WHEN SUDDENLY AN INK-HUED FIGURE SLINKS OUT OF THE DEEP SHADOWS....

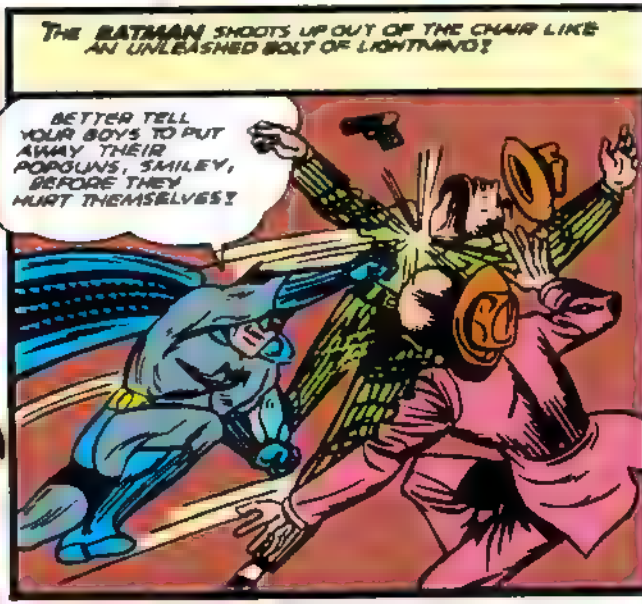
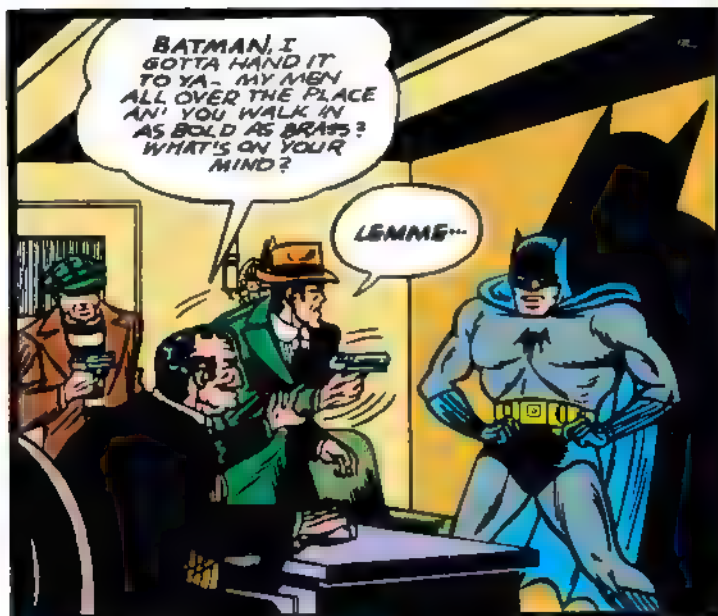
**STOP!—
THIEF!**

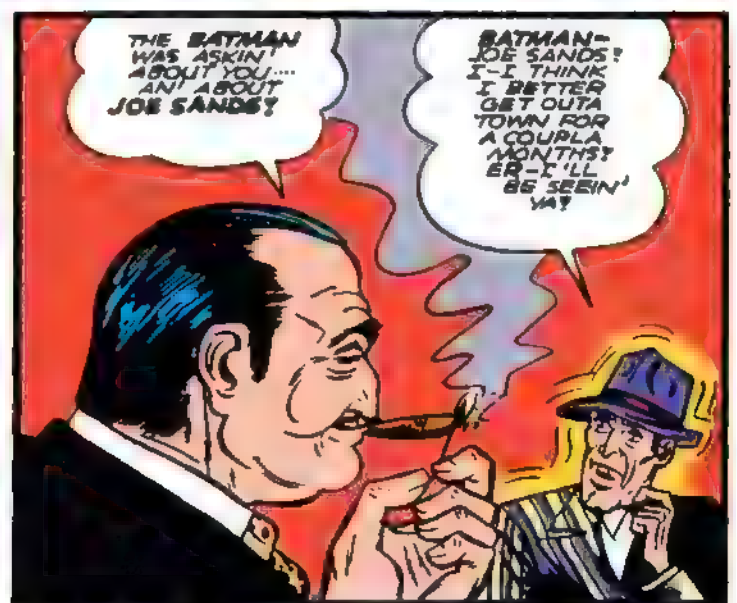
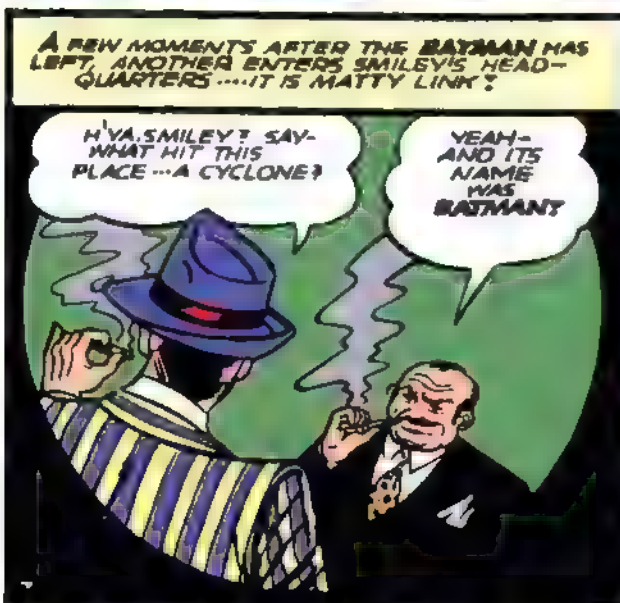
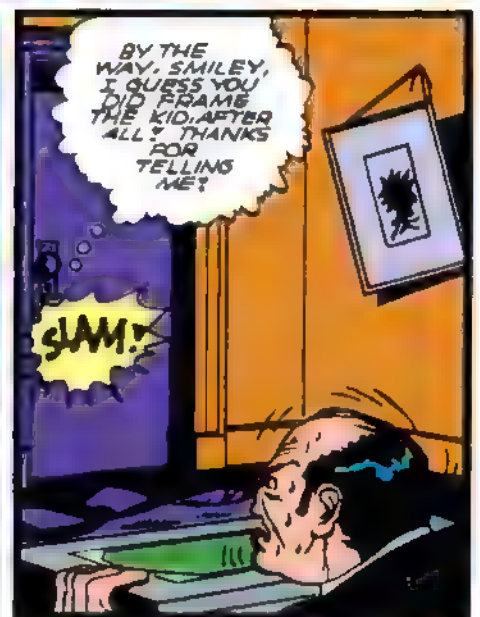
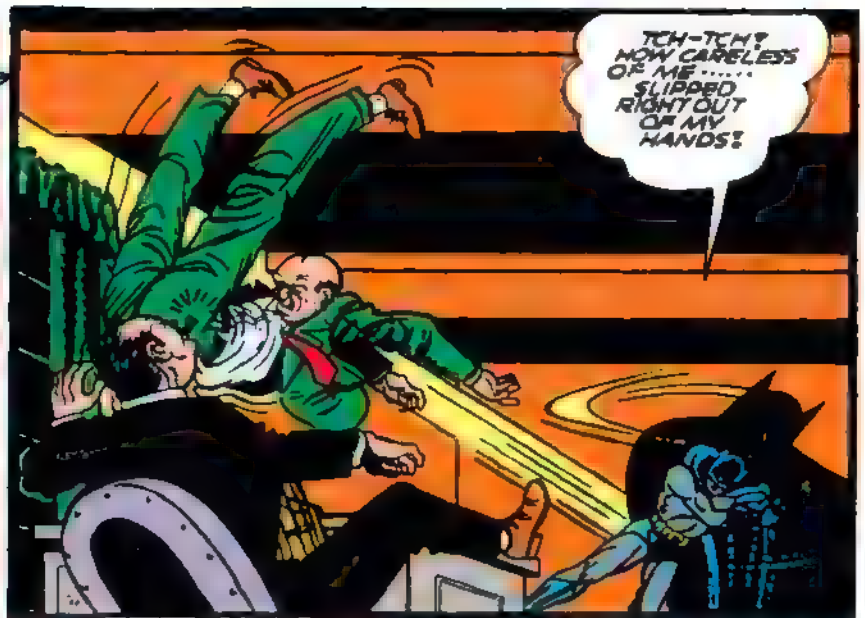


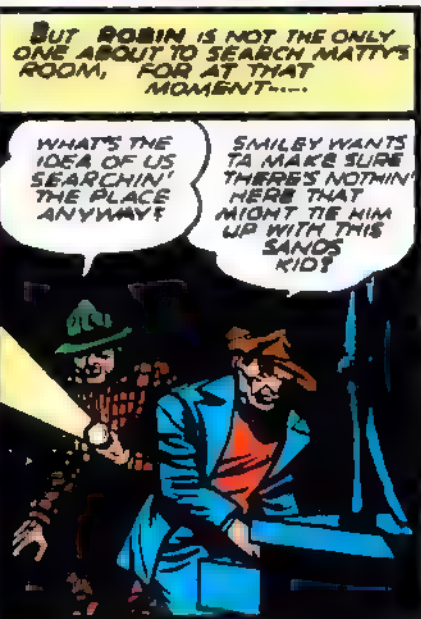












THE SANDS OF TIME DROP SLOWLY. BRUCE HAS ALREADY REACHED HOME AND WAITS IMPATIENTLY FOR ROBIN'S RETURN.



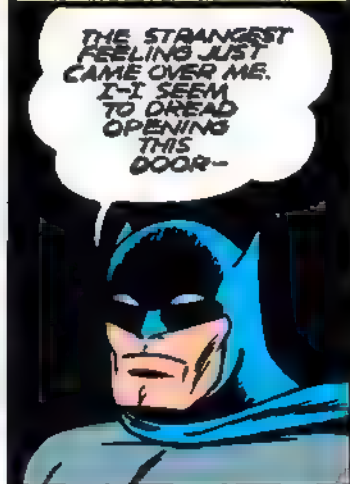
IT'S LATE... HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN BACK HOURS AGO...

HASTILY, HE DONS HIS COSTUME. AN INSTANT LATER, HE SENDS THE WEIRD BATMOBILE STREAKING THROUGH THE CITY STREETS--



SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO HIM-- I FEEL IT!

MOMENTS LATER, THE BATMAN STOPS BEFORE THE DOOR OF MATTY'S ROOM--



THE STRANGEST FEELING JUST CAME OVER ME. I-I SEEM TO DREAD OPENING THIS DOOR--

A TOUCH OF THE KNOB, AND THE DOOR SLOWLY SWINGS OPEN. LIGHT FROM THE HALL LAMP ILLUMINATES A SMALL, STILL FIGURE ON THE FLOOR?



ROBIN?

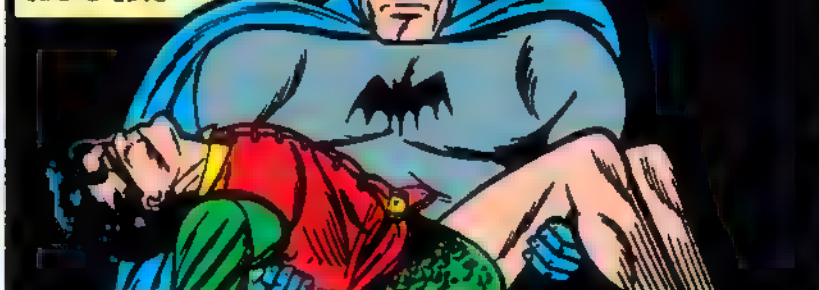


HIS HEAD... ALL BLOODY... HE'S BEEN CLUBBED... CLUBBED TO DEATH! ROBIN'S DEAD?

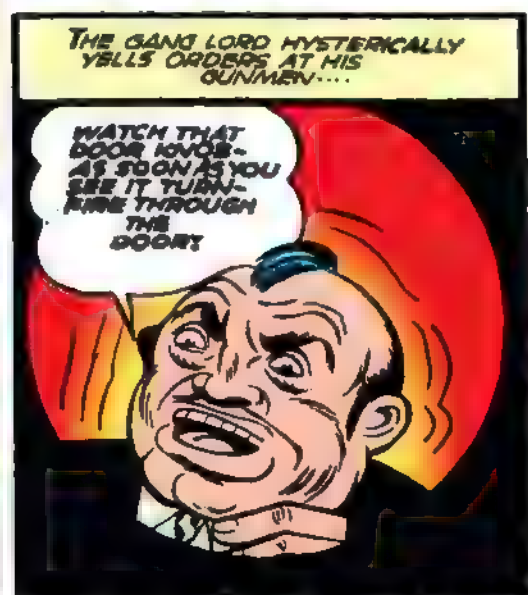
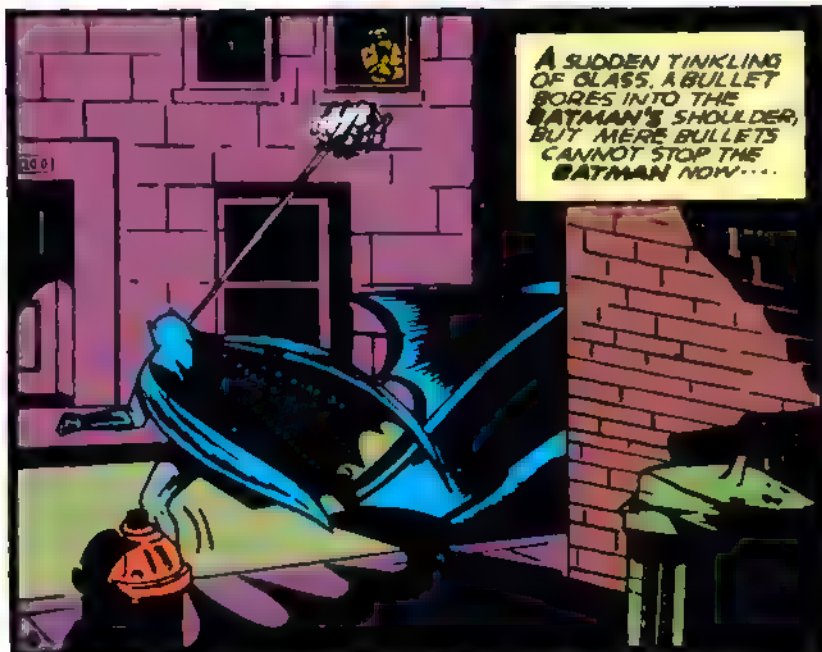
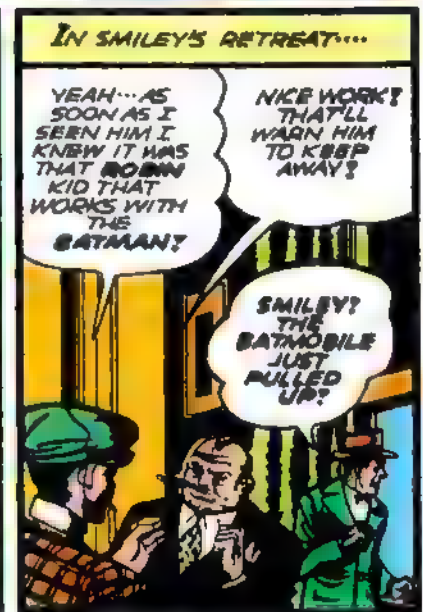
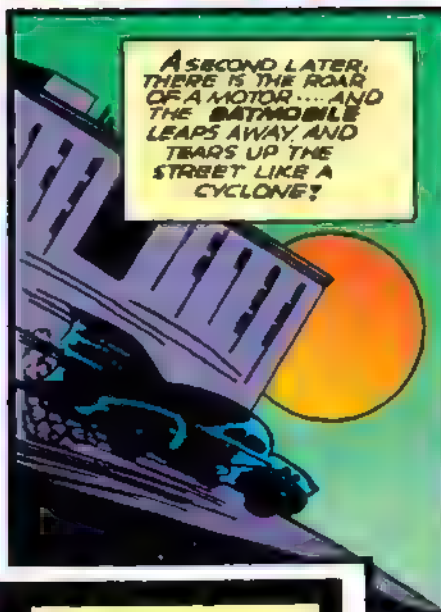
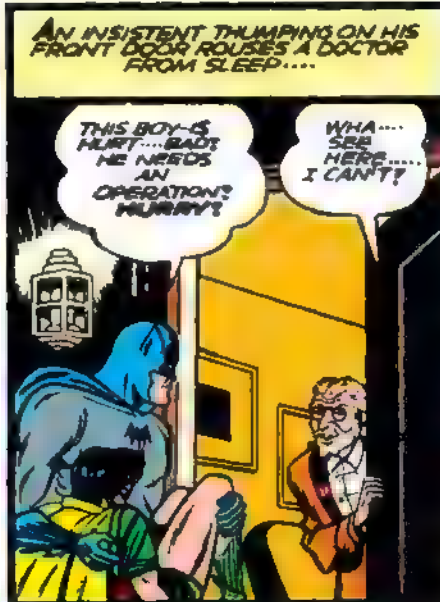
THE BATMAN, MAN WHO HAS FACED A THOUSAND DANGERS, MAN OF STRENGTH AND WILL-POWER, NOW BENDS HIS HEAD AND WEEPS. ANGUISHED SOBS ARE TORN FROM HIM!



SLOWLY, HIS GREAT FRAME STRAIGHTENS. SMALL VEINS STAND OUT ON HIS FEATURES. MUSCLES CORD IN HIS THROAT. HIS EYES BECOME FIRES, HIS MOUTH A KNIFE-EDGED LINE--



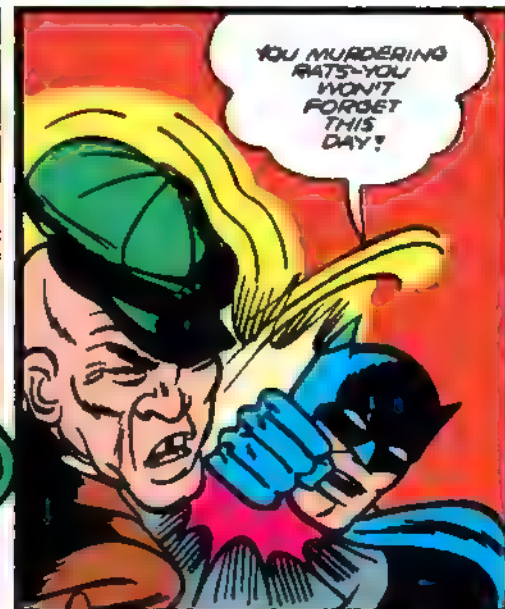
FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE BATMAN KNOWS RAGE, BLEAK, GRIM RAGE. WOE TO ALL CRIMINALS, FOR NOW, THE BATMAN HAS BECOME A TERRIBLE FIGURE OF VENGEANCE?



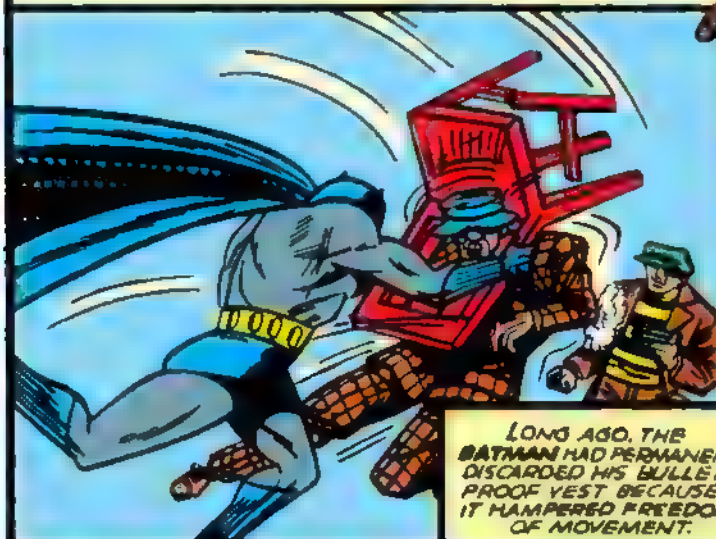
BUT THE BATMAN DOESN'T EVEN BOTHER WITH OPENING THE DOOR. THERE IS A CRASH... THE WOOD SPLINTERS AS HIS BROAD SHOULDERS SMASH THROUGH....



YOU MURDERING RATS--YOU WON'T FORGET THIS DAY!

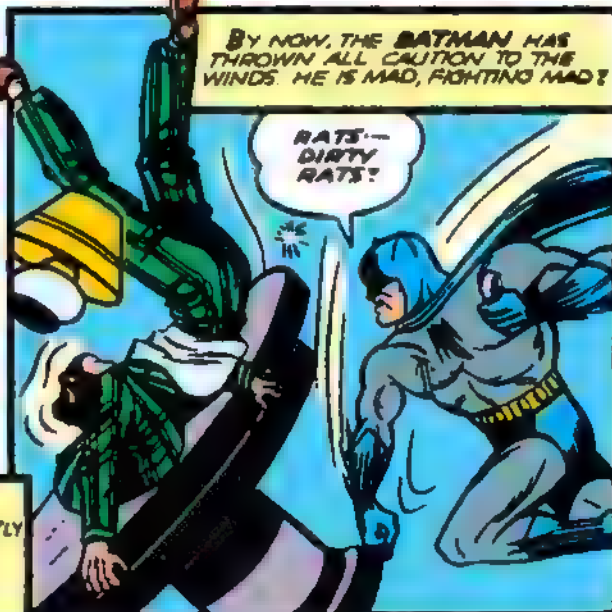


ANOTHER BULLET LODGES IN THE BATMAN'S SHOULDER BUT IT IS NO MORE THAN A FLEA BITE TO HIM NOW--

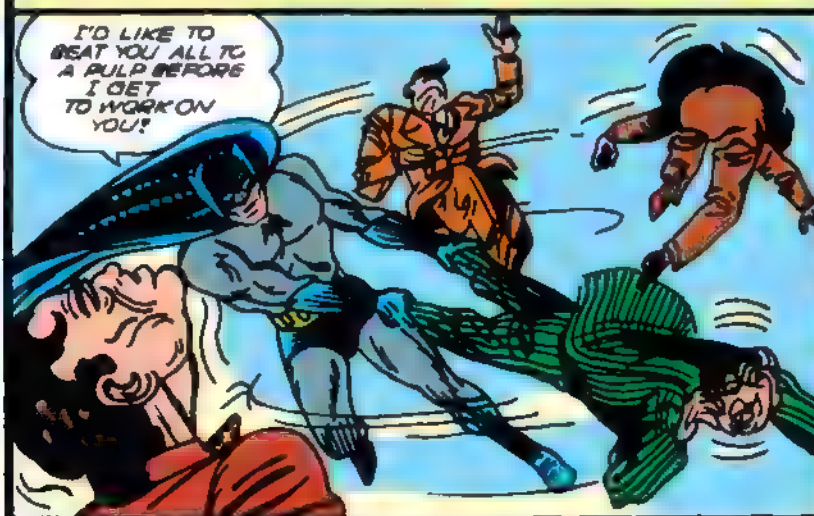


LONG AGO, THE BATMAN HAD PERMANENTLY DISCARDED HIS BULLET-PROOF VEST BECAUSE IT HAMPERED FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT.

BY NOW, THE BATMAN HAS THROWN ALL CAUTION TO THE WINDS. HE IS MAD, FIGHTING MAD!

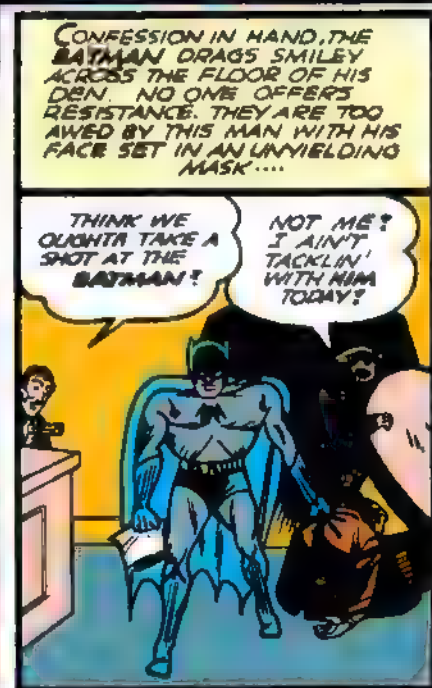
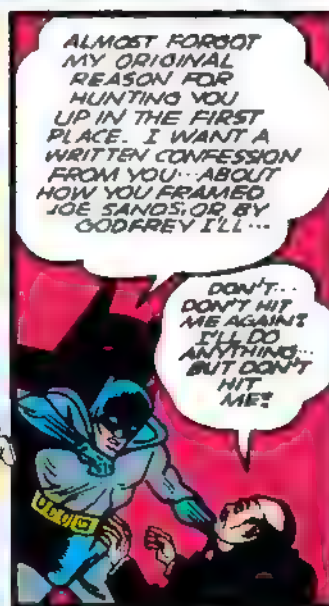
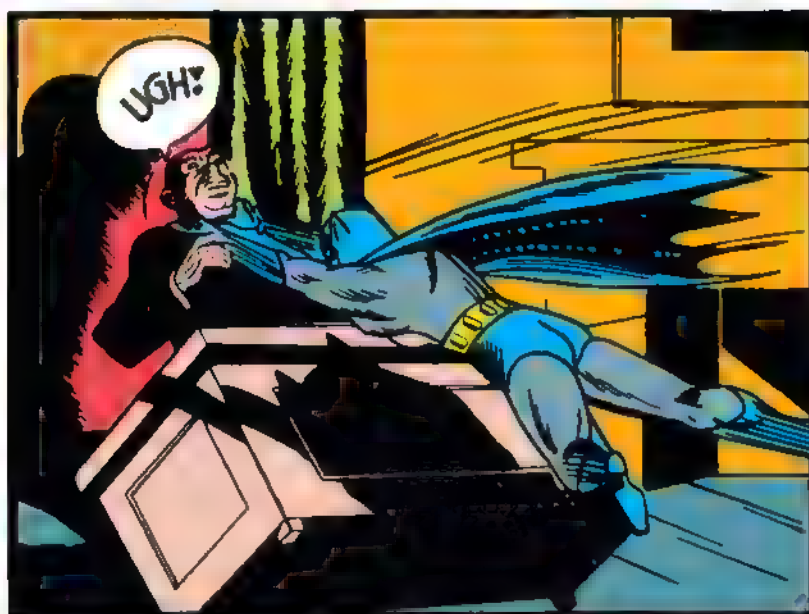
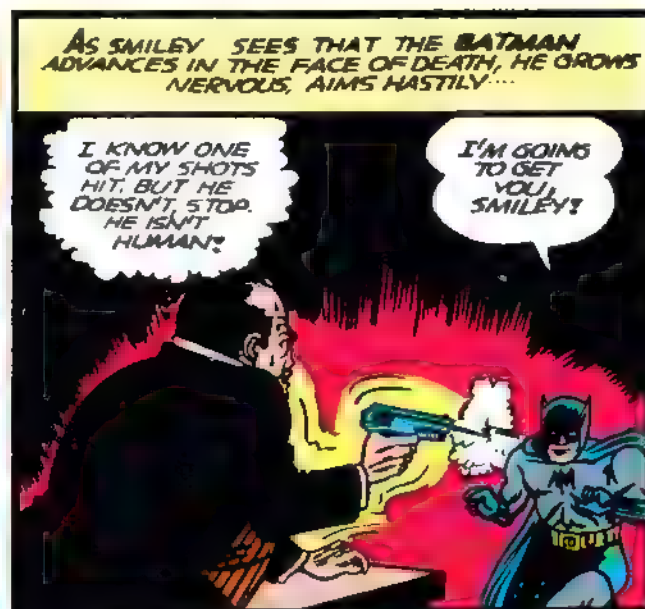
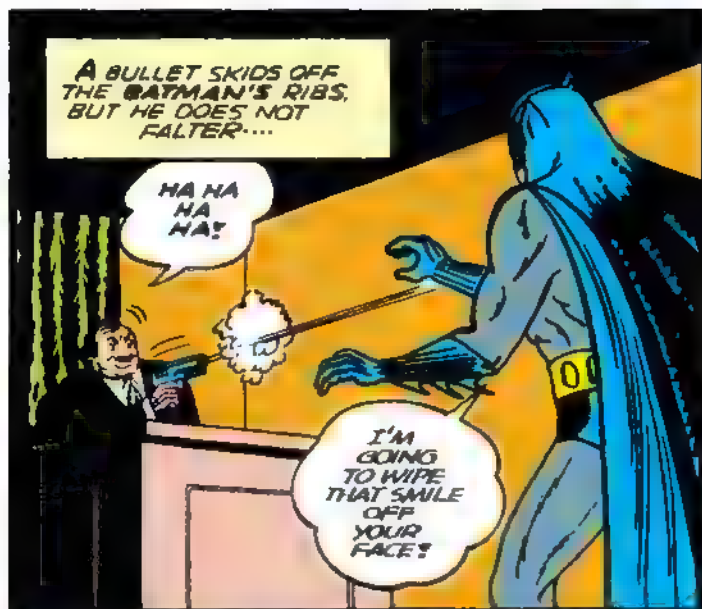


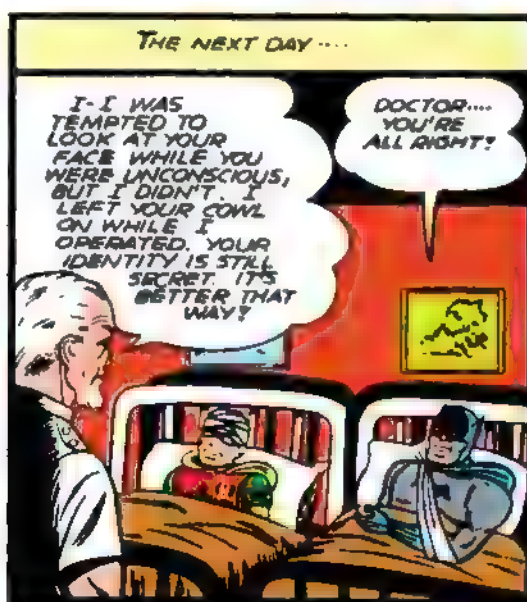
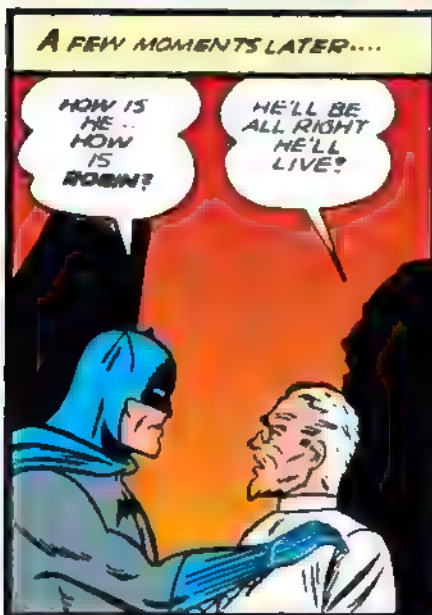
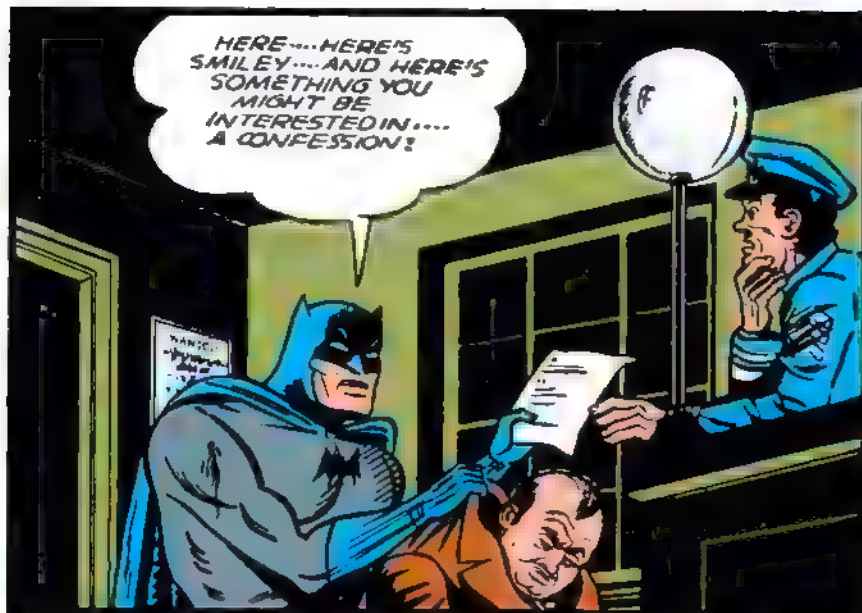
PICKING UP ONE HELPLESS THUG, THE BATMAN USES HIM AS A HUMAN BLUDGEON.



A BULLET SINGS ITS SONG OF DEATH AS IT HUMS PAST HIS EAR...







BAT MAN

WITH
Robin
-THE BOY WONDER-

by

DOE
TAME

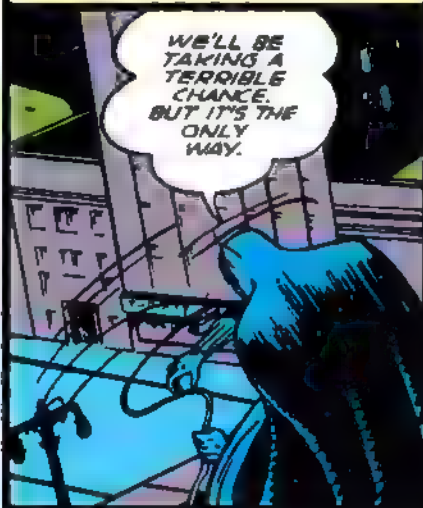
HEARD STRANGE CREATURE
OF DARKNESS MYSTERIOUS AS
NIGHT ITSELF. THIS IS THE
BATMAN NEMESIS OF CRIME
AT HIS SIDE LIKE A STRONG RIGHT
ARM IS HIS YOUNG ALLY, ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER. IT IS
NO LITTLE WONDER THAT
CROOKS FEAR THEM. FOR
THEY ARE THE GREATEST
CRIME-BUSTING TEAM
KNOWN. THE WORLD HAS EVER
IN THIS FOLLOW THEM
ADVENTURE AS THEY PROVE
ONCE AGAIN TO AN ERRING BOY
THAT CRIME DOES NOT PAY!!

FOR MANY DAYS
NOW, A MYSTERIOUS
BAND OF BANK
ROBBERS HAS BEEN
TERRORIZING
GOTHAM CITY.
ON THIS PARTICULAR
AFTERNOON, THE
BATMAN AND ROBIN
ARE JUST IN TIME
TO WITNESS
ANOTHER
DARING
HOLDUP.....

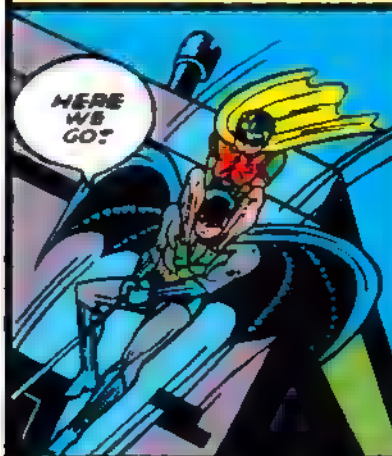
THE BANK
ROBBERS-
WE'VE GOT
TO GET
DOWN
THERE!

WE'LL NEVER
MAKE IT IN
TIME. THAT
LAMP POST...
IT GIVES
ME AN
IDEA!

① THE BATMAN TWIRLS HIS STRONG, SILKEN ROPE OVER HIS HEAD.....



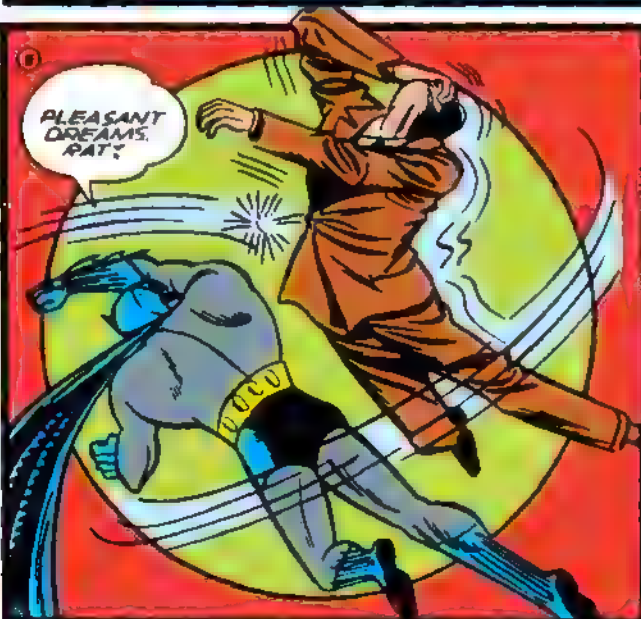
② THE ROPE CATCHES ABOUT THE LAMPOST. ROBIN CLAMBERS ONTO THE BATMAN'S BROAD SHOULDERS....AND THE DUO SWINGS OUT INTO EMPTY SPACE



③ BELOW THEM, THE DEPTHS OF THE BUILDING STRETCH SHEER AND DIZZY LIKE A GREAT CANYON. DOWN THEY SWING IN A BREATHTAKING DROP



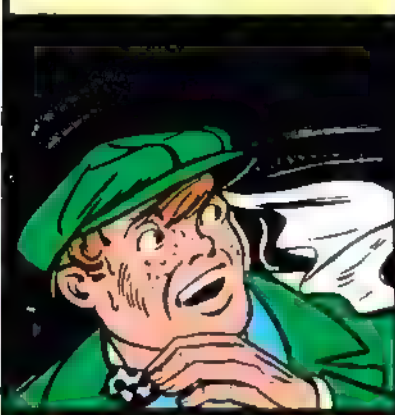
④ THE TIGHT HOLD IS SUDDENLY RELEASED AS THE BATMAN AND ROBIN DROP LIKE TWO BIRDS OF PREY ATOP THE BACKS OF THE ASTONISHED THIEVES.



⑤ AS THE BATMAN MOVES TOWARD A HOODLUM, SUDDENLY ANOTHER DARTS FORWARD AND, PUSHING THE OTHER OUT OF HARM'S WAY, TURNS TO FACE THE CRIME-FIGHTER HIMSELF



IN THE MELEE, THE RESCUED HOODLUM'S KERCHIEF FALLS AND THE BATMAN CATCHES A QUICK GLIMPSE OF HIS FACE....

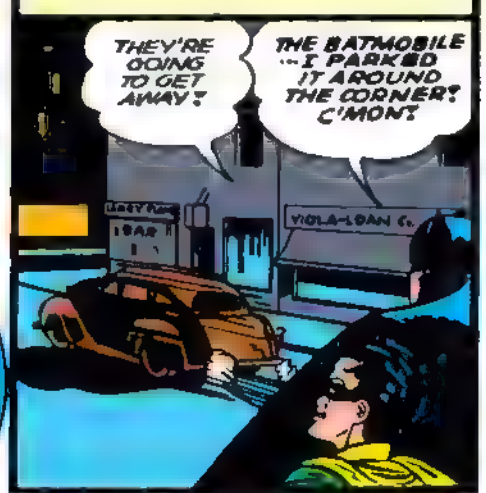


IT IS THE FACE OF A BOY... A BOY WHO IS SCARED STIFF?

BUT THAT GLIMPSE IS ALL THE BATMAN IS ABLE TO GET, FOR HE IS FORCED FOR THE MOMENT TO FLING HIMSELF TO THE SIDE AS A BULLET WHINES PAST HIM...



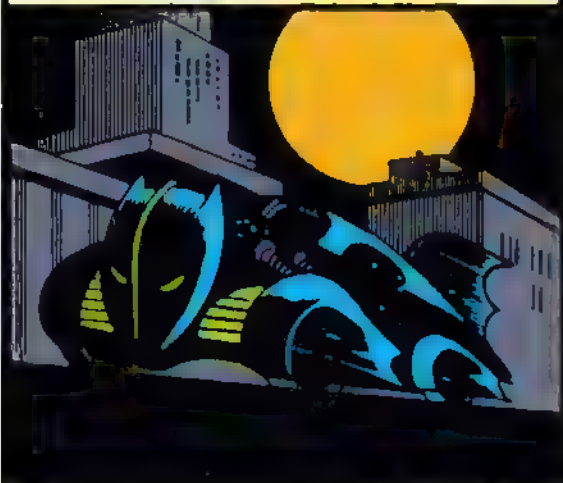
THAT MOMENT IS ALL THE CROOKS NEED. SWIFTLY GATHERING UP THEIR FALLEN COMPANIONS, THEY PILE INTO THEIR CAR AND SPEED OFF...



THEY'RE GOING TO GET AWAY?

THE BATMOBILE... I PARKED IT AROUND THE CORNER? C'MON!

LIKE AN IMPATIENT STEED STRAINING AT THE REINS, THE BATMOBILE SHIVERS AS ITS SUPER-CHARGED MOTOR THROBS WITH ENERGY... AND AN INSTANT LATER IT TEARS AFTER THE FLEEING HOODLUMS.



NEADER AND NEADER DRAWS THE BATMOBILE AS THE CHASE TAKES THE CARS WHIPPING AROUND CORNERS, ROARING UP STREETS...



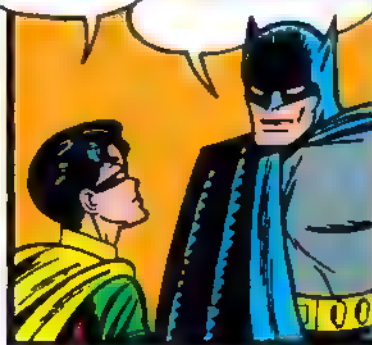
ABRUPTLY, THE BATMOBILE STREAKS SCREAMING ABOUT A CORNER TOWARD THE BANDITS' CAR... ONLY TO FIND THEY ARE...



GONE? THEY MUST HAVE DUCKED INTO ONE OF THESE BUILDINGS?

CERTAINLY... THEY PROBABLY HAVE SOME HIDEOUT OR CONNECTION ON THIS STREET?

BUT THEY CAN BE TRACED BY THE CAR... AND THEN THE POLICE WILL SEARCH THESE HOUSES...

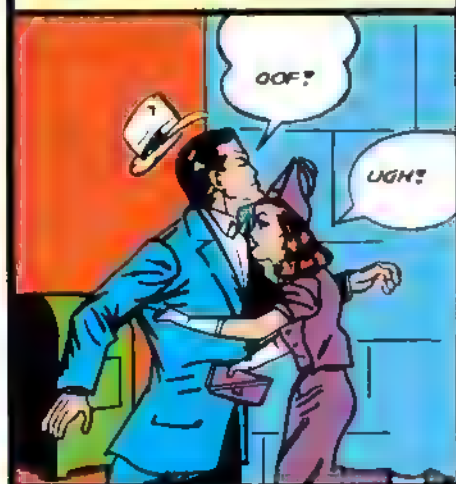


THE CAR WAS PROBABLY STOLEN... AND THEY'RE SMART ENOUGH TO KNOW THE POLICE WON'T BELIEVE THEY'LL BE STUPID ENOUGH TO REVEAL THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD?

I'M CURIOUS TO KNOW WHY THAT BANDIT PROTECTED THE OTHER AT THE RISK OF HIMSELF... SO I'M COMING BACK TO INVESTIGATE TOMORROW... AS BRUCE WAYNE?



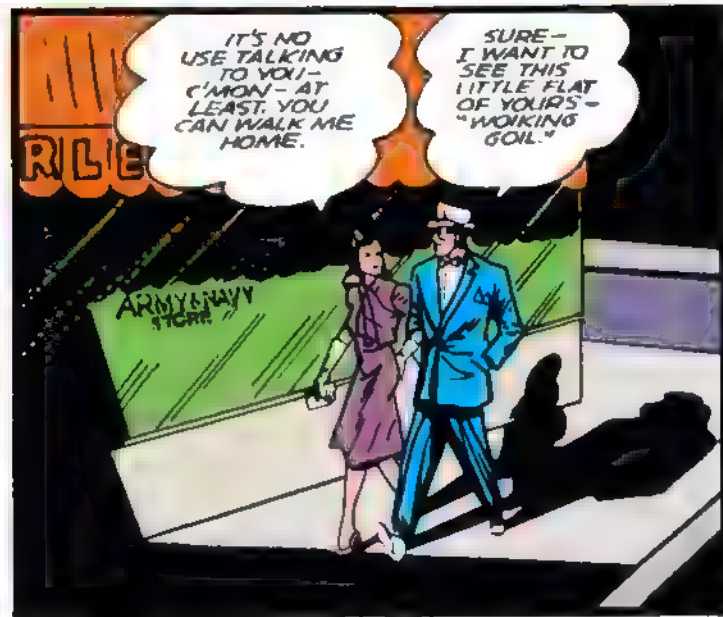
ACCORDINGLY, THE BATMAN COSTUME IS DISCARDED, AND THE NEXT DAY IT IS BRUCE WAYNE, PLAYBOY OF SOCIETY, WHO SAUNTERS DOWN THE STREET, WHEN----



YOU BIG ARE...WHY DON'T YOU LOOK---
BRUCE---
BRUCE WAYNE?



TELL THE CROWD I WOKE UP ONE DAY TO REALIZE THERE ARE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS THAN CAFE SOCIETY--SO-O-O...I'VE MOVED OUT AND BECOME A NURSE?



AS THEY NEAR LINDA'S MODEST APARTMENT BUILDING----

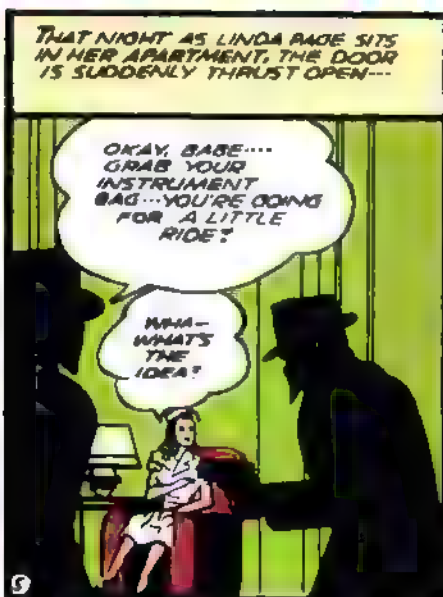
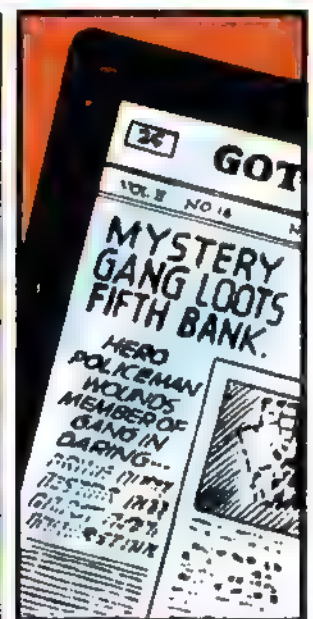
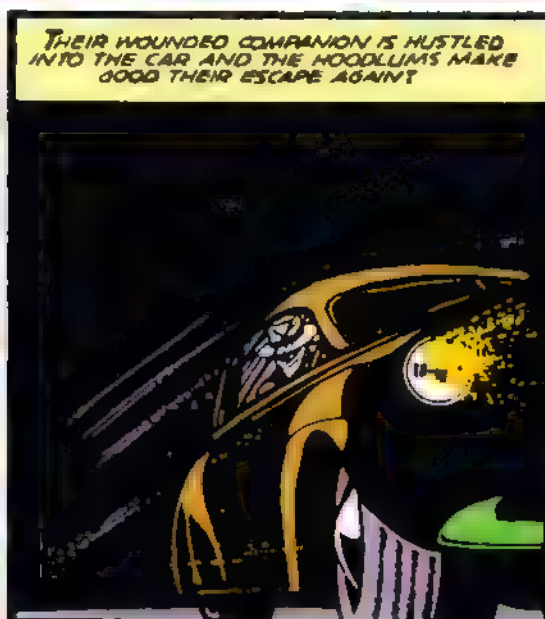
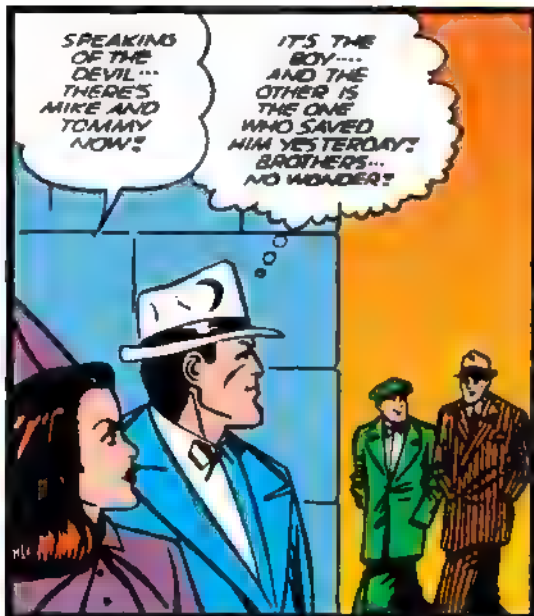


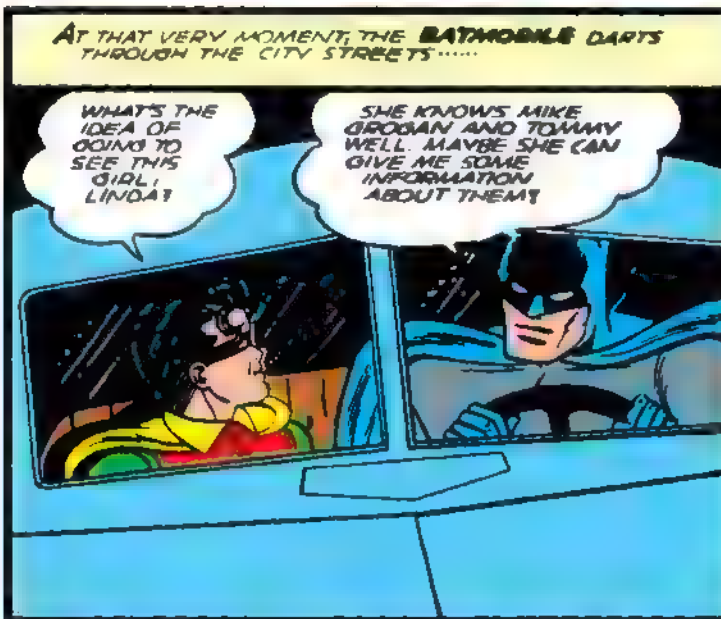
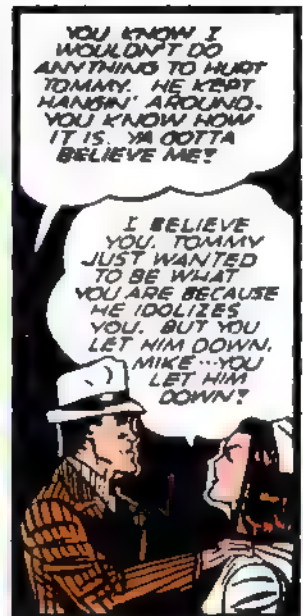
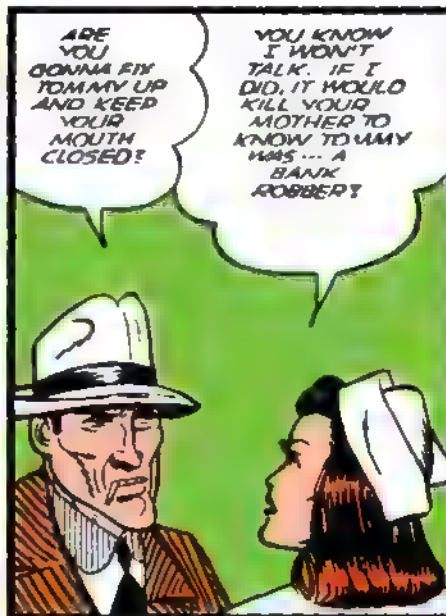
TOMMY-- BOY GIVING HER TROUBLE?

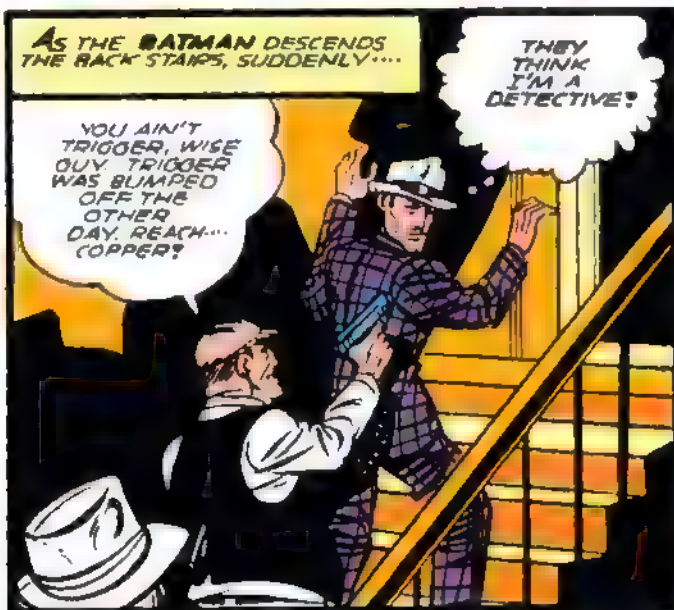
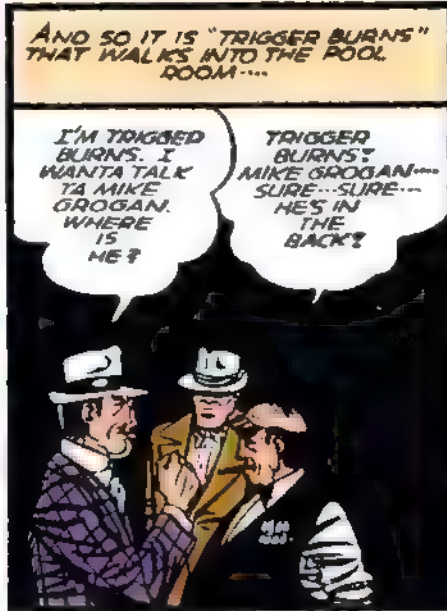


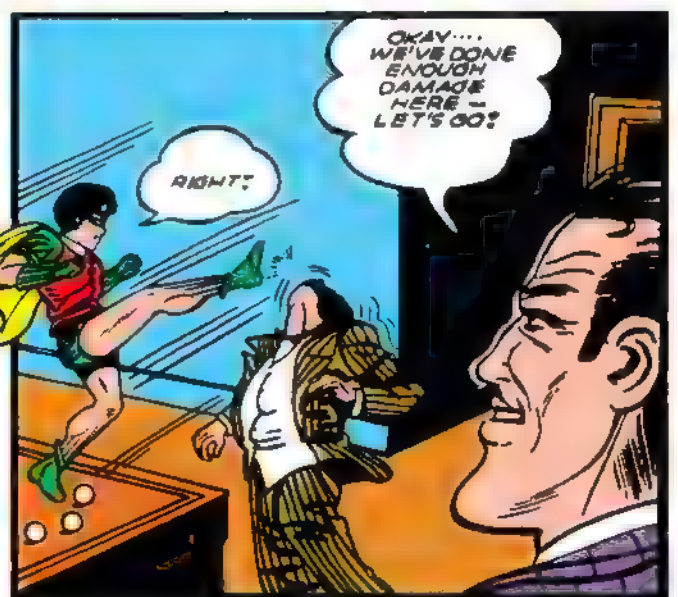
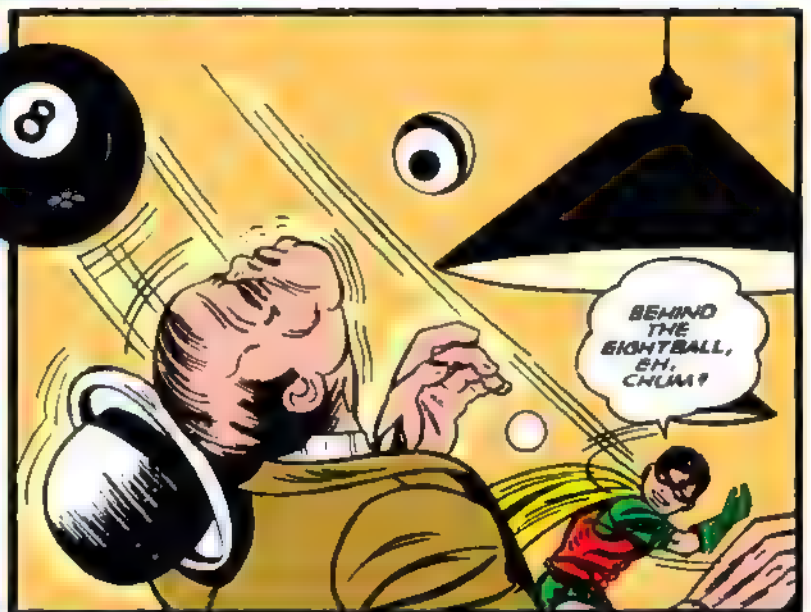
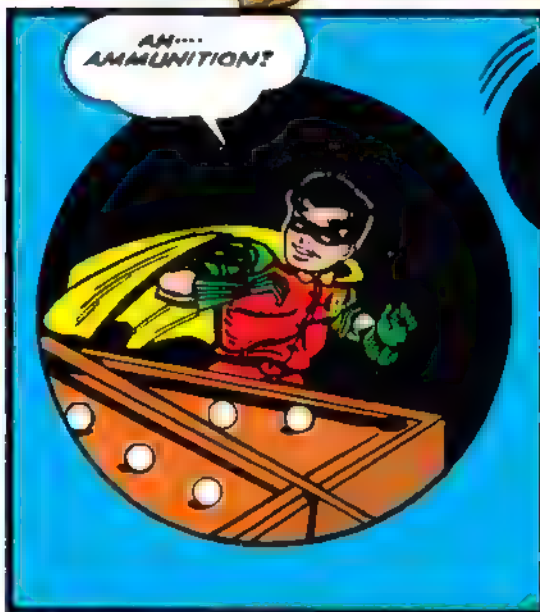
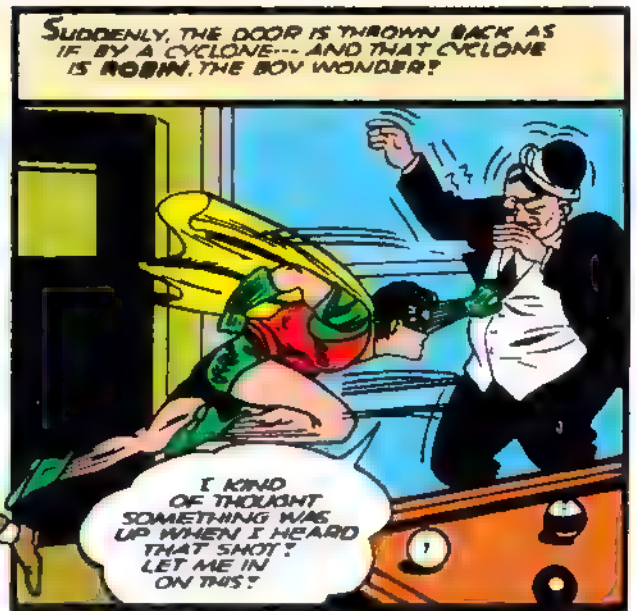
TOMMY HAS AN OLDER BROTHER, MIKE, WHO IS A GANGSTER. TOMMY IDOLIZES HIS BROTHER MIKE BECAUSE HE'S GOOD TO HIM AND....











AFTER THE BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE GONE---

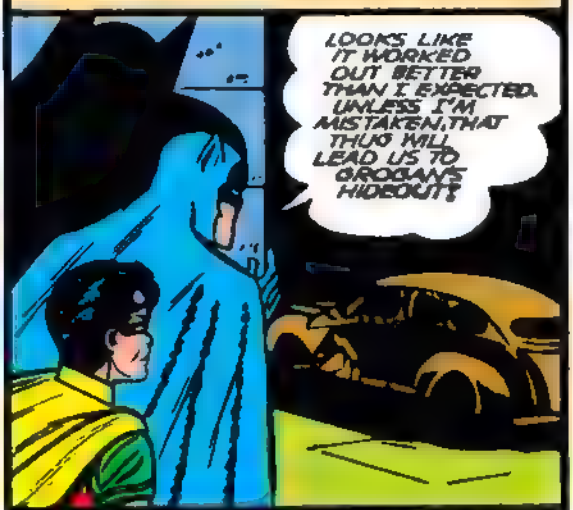


GET THE NUMBER O' THE TRUCK THAT HIT ME?

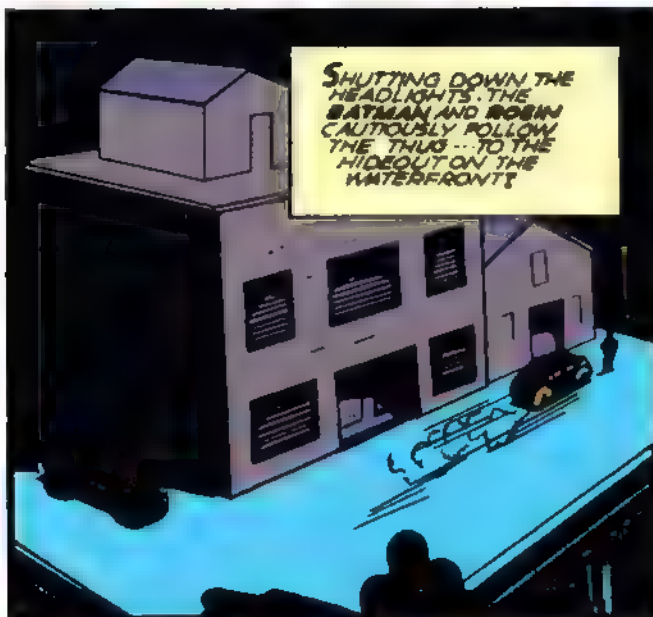
LISTEN--- THAT DICK WAS AFTER MIKEY WE GOTTA GET WORD TO 'IM?

I'LL GET TO THE HIDEOUT RIGHT AWAY?

AS THE HOODLUM RUSHES TO HIS CAR, THE BATMAN, WHO HAS REMOVED THE MAKEUP OF "TRIGGER" BURNS, AND ROBIN WATCH FROM THE CORNER---



LOOKS LIKE IT WORKED OUT BETTER THAN I EXPECTED. UNLESS I'M MISTAKEN, THAT THUG WILL LEAD US TO BROGAN'S HIDEOUT?



SHUTTING DOWN THE HEADLIGHTS, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN CAUTIOUSLY FOLLOW THE THUG...TO THE HIDEOUT ON THE WATERFRONT?



MIKE DOWNSTAIRS?

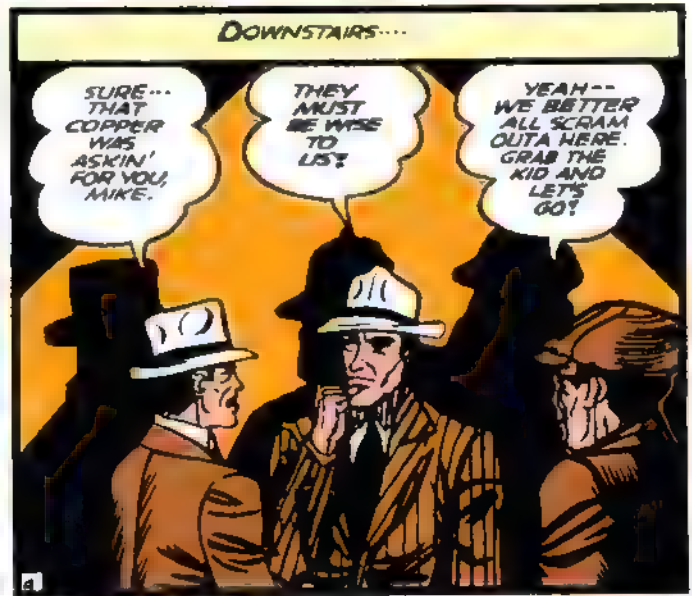
YEAH? HE'S DOWN WIT' DE GANG? ME...I'M UP HERE WATCHIN' ALL ALONE?



CHEE...DEM SHADOWS OIMME DE CREEPS. THEY GOT SUCH FUNNY SHAPES. DAT ONE LOOKS JUST LIKE A BAT?



BROTHER, YOU WERE NEVER MORE RIGHT IN YOUR WHOLE LIFE?

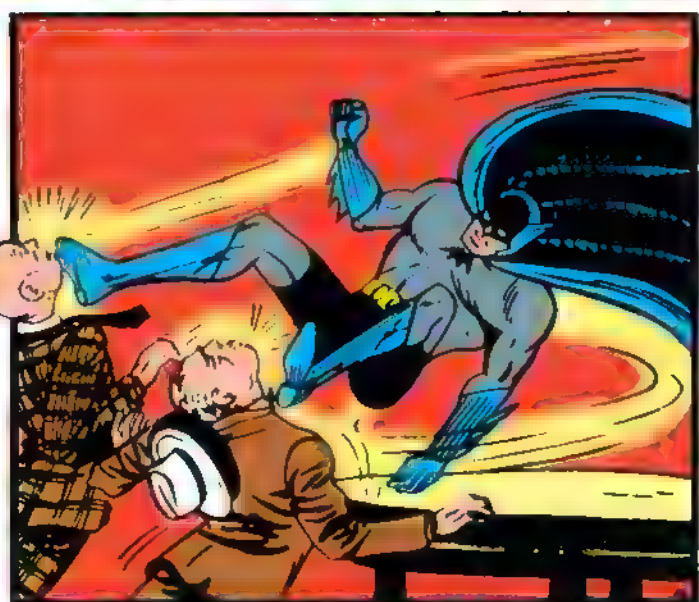
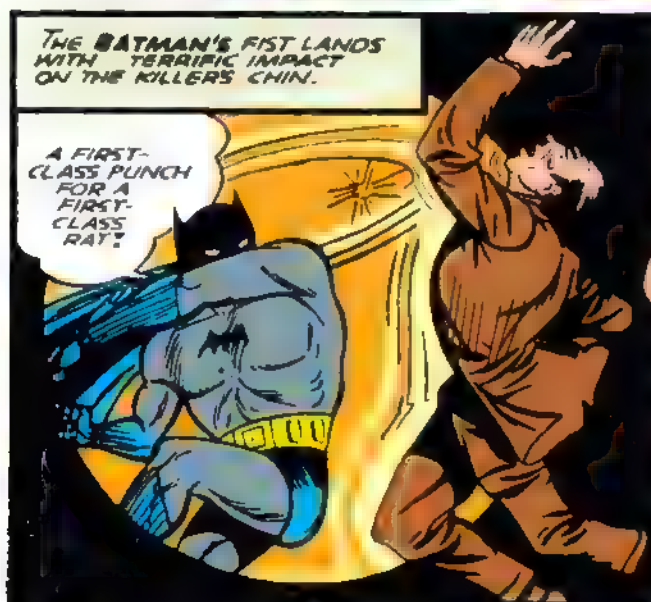
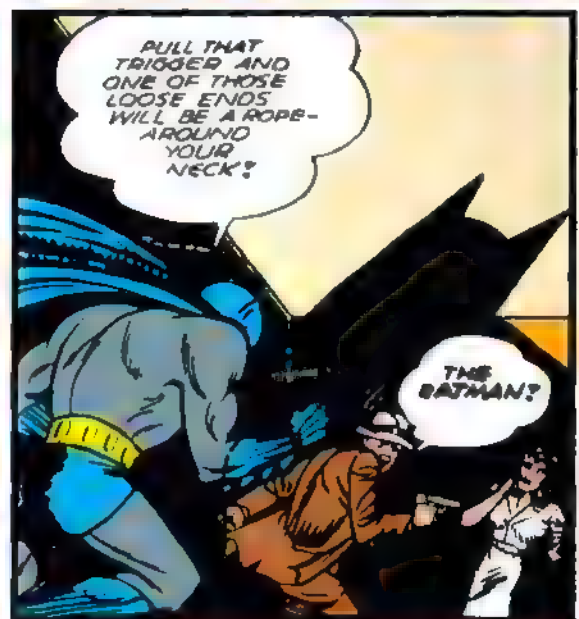
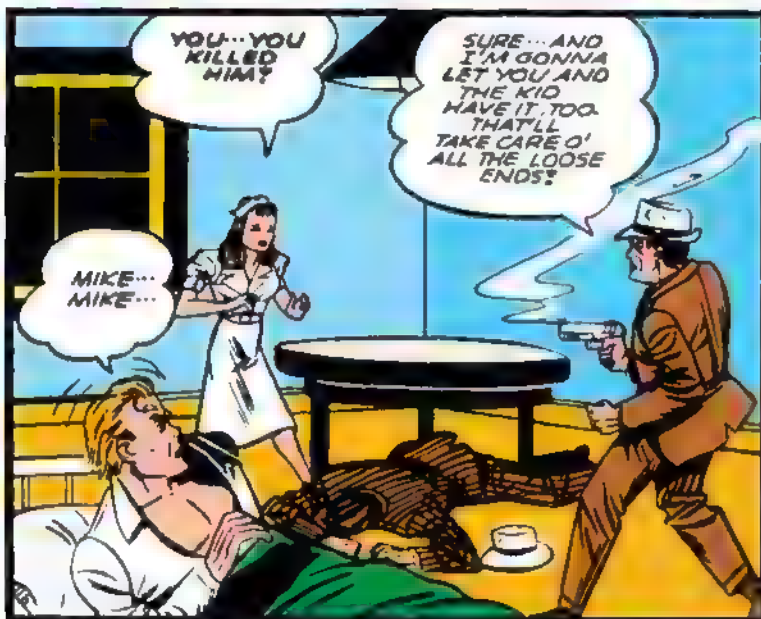


DOWNSTAIRS....

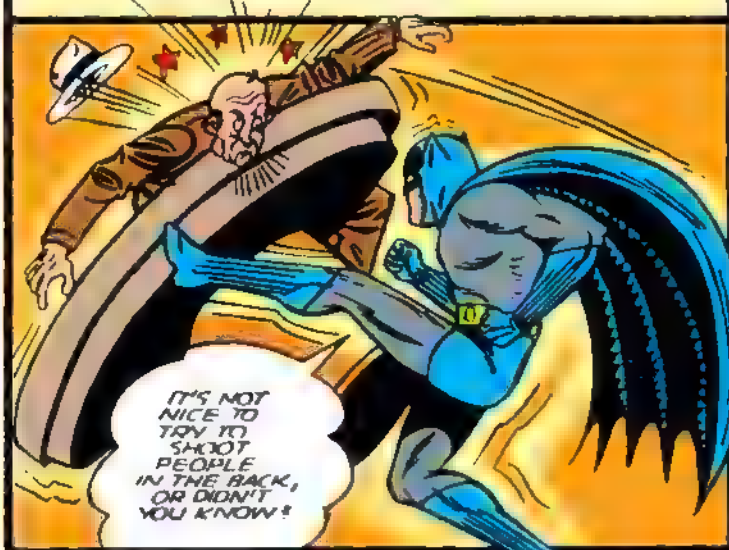
SURE... THAT COPPER WAS ASKIN' FOR YOU, MIKE.

THEY MUST BE WISE TO LIST?

YEAH-- WE BETTER ALL SCRAM OUTA HERE. GRAB THE KID AND LET'S GO?



SENSING DANGER, THE BATMAN SUDDENLY WHIRLS AND....



MEANWHILE, ROBIN IS HAVING SOME FUN....



...WITH PLEASURE?



ENOUGH KIDDING AROUND--NOW TO GET TO WORK?



DEATH FACES THE BATMAN!

HA--I CAN PICK THAT GUY OFF LIKE A CLAY PIGEON FROM HERE?



TRY TO SHOOT THE BATMAN, WILL YOU? TAKE THAT--AND THAT--AND THAT?

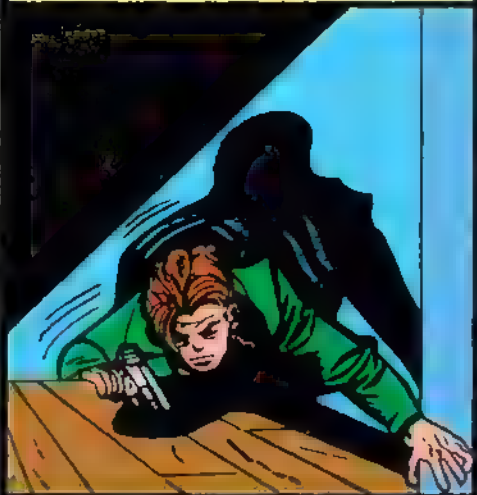
HEY? OW-- LEGGO?



UNNOTICED, A FIGURE DROPS OFF THE COT, PICKS UP A GUN AND STAGGERS TO THE DOORWAY...IT IS TOMMY--



THE WOUNDED BOY DRAGS HIS PAIN-WRACKED, WEAKENED BODY UP THE STAIRS. ONCE--TWICE, HE FALTERS, BUT UP--UP HE CLIMBS--



UNTIL HE STEPS ONTO THE DOCK ITSELF, HIS FINGERS TUG AT THE PISTOL'S TRIGGER. A SHOT RINGS OUT.



DOWN BELOW, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN BATTLE FURIOUSLY WHEN A THUG SUDDENLY PLACES A PISTOL AGAINST LINDA'S HEAD AND SHOUTS--



YOU... YOU--

OKAY--CUT OUT THE HORSE PLAY OR I PLUG THIS DAME!

NICE WORK, JOEY NOW I'M GONNA DO SOMETHIN' I ALWAYS WANTED TO DO--GIVE IT TO THE BATMAN!



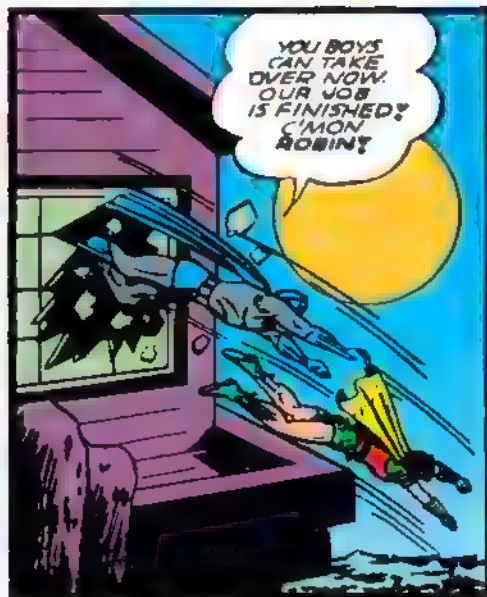
A SHOT BLASTS THROUGH THE ROOM--BUT THE BATMAN STILL STANDS ERECT. IT IS THE KILLER WHO MEETS HIS END!



JUST IN TIME, EH, BATMAN?

POLICE?

YOU BOYS CAN TAKE OVER NOW. OUR JOB IS FINISHED! C'MON, ROBIN!





No.1



WORLD'S BEST COMICS



96
THRILLING
PAGES IN
FULL
COLOR!

**SUPERMAN • BATMAN AND ROBIN
RED, WHITE AND BLUE • ZATARA**

BAT MAN

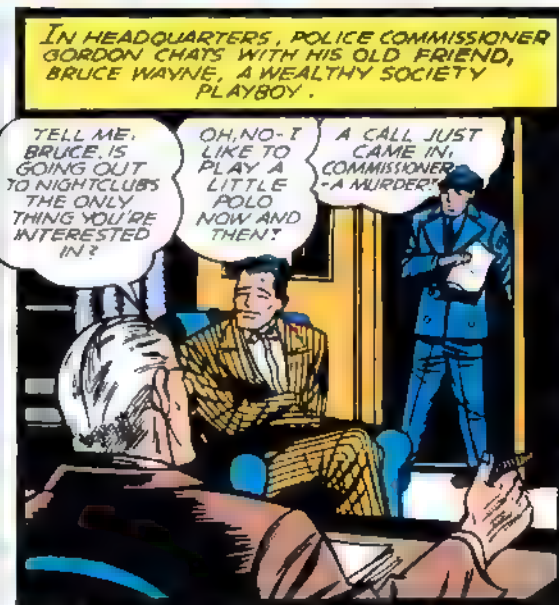
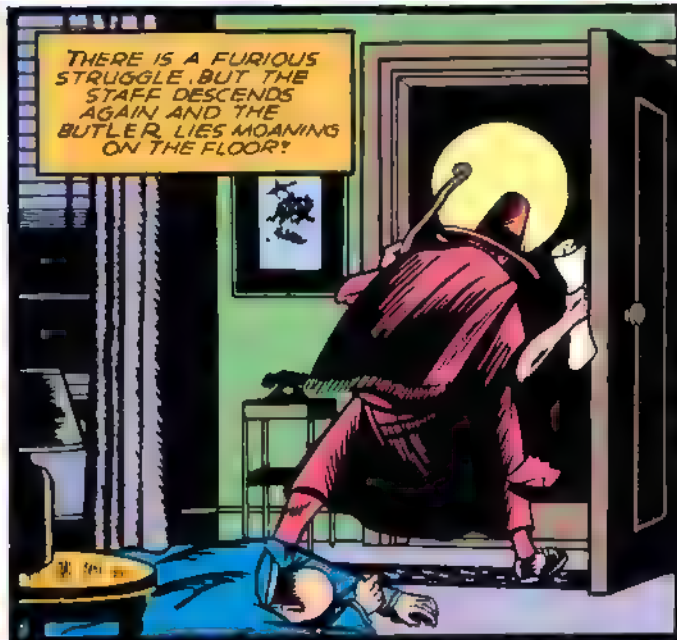
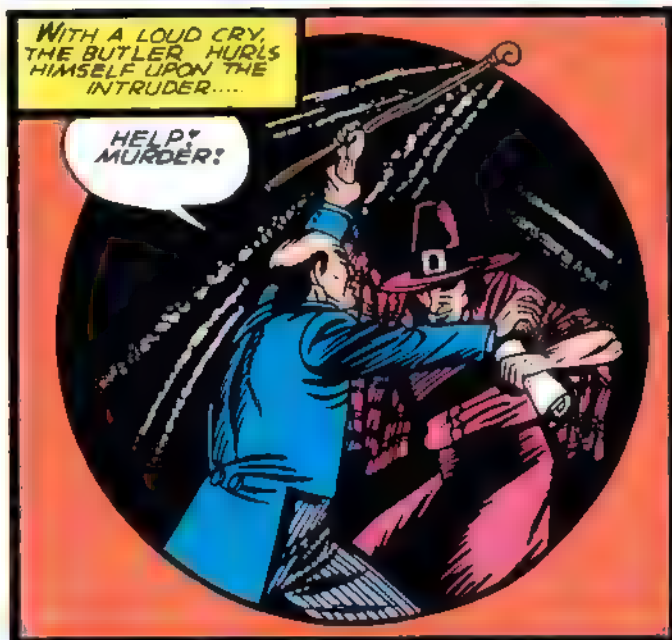
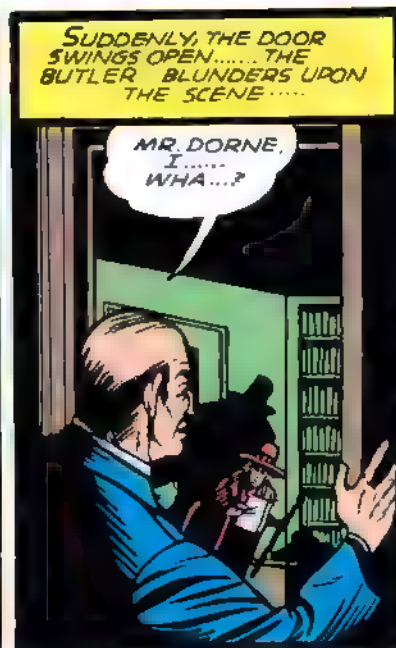
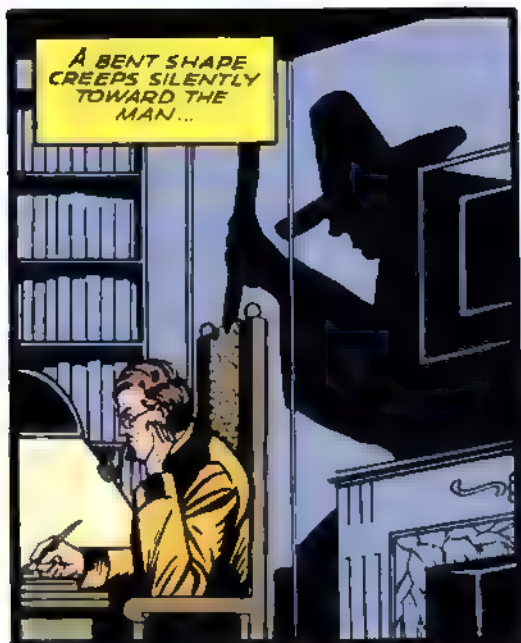
WITH
Robin
- THE BOY WONDER -

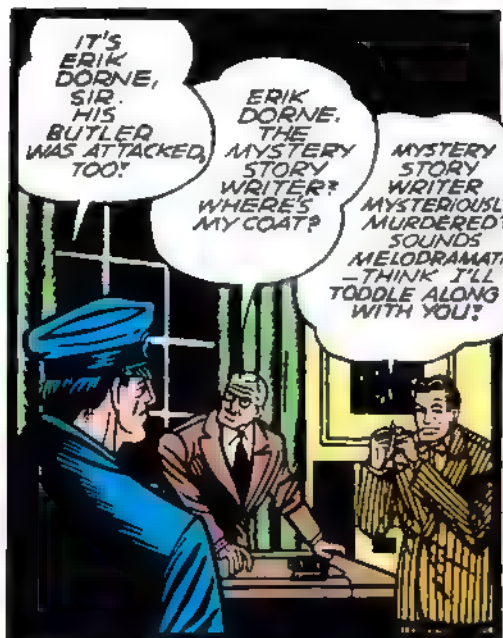
BATMAN, EERIE NEMESIS OF CRIME, AND HIS YOUNG DAREDEVIL AIDE, ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER, FIND THEMSELVES STALKING THE TRAIL OF A STRANGE AND UNCANNY FIGURE WHOSE CRIMINAL EXPLOITS ARE A MYSTERY... WHOSE VERY EXISTENCE IS A MYSTERY... YET IT IS THESE TWO, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN, WHO ARE ABLE TO SOLVE THIS ENIGMA AND BRING ABOUT AN END TO THE STRANGE CASE OF... "THE WITCH AND THE MANUSCRIPT OF DOOM?"



OUR STORY OPENS ONE WILD, RAINY NIGHT. LIGHTNING FLASHES THROUGH THE HEAVENS, THUNDER ROLLS IN GREAT WAVES. IN A ROOM, A MAN SITS WRITING AT HIS DESK.....



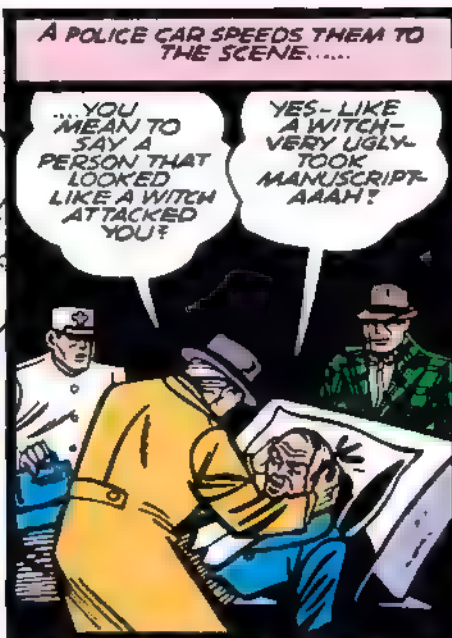




IT'S ERIK DORNE, SIR. HIS BUTLER WAS ATTACKED, TOO!

ERIK DORNE. THE MYSTERY STORY WRITER? WHERE'S MY COAT?

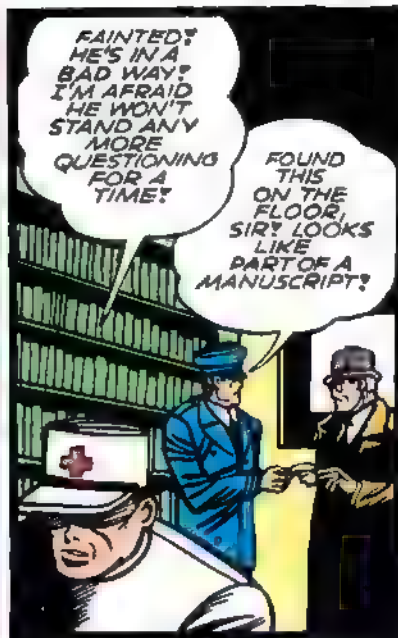
MYSTERY STORY WRITER MYSTERIOUSLY MURDERED? SOUNDS MELODRAMATIC - THINK I'LL TODDLE ALONG WITH YOU!



A POLICE CAR SPEEDS THEM TO THE SCENE.....

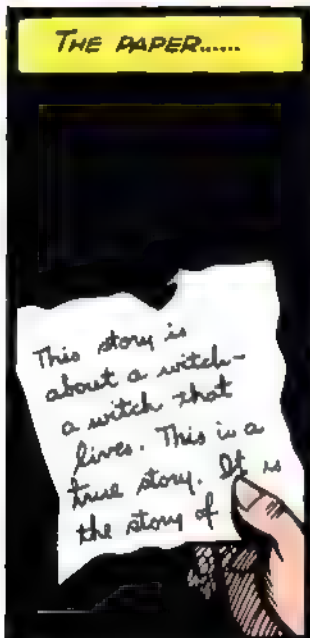
YOU MEAN TO SAY A PERSON THAT LOOKED LIKE A WITCH ATTACKED YOU?

YES - LIKE A WITCH - VERY UGLY - TOOK MANUSCRIPT - AAAH!



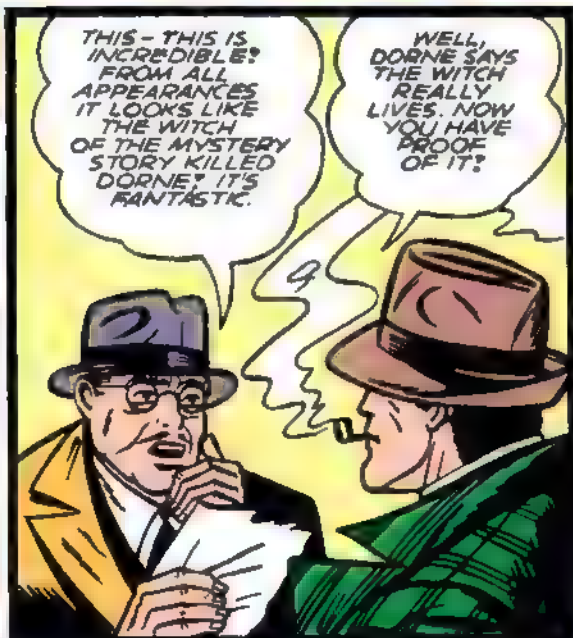
FAINTED? HE'S IN A BAD WAY? I'M AFRAID HE WON'T STAND ANY MORE QUESTIONING FOR A TIME!

FOUND THIS ON THE FLOOR, SIR? LOOKS LIKE PART OF A MANUSCRIPT?



THE PAPER.....

This story is about a witch - a witch that lives. This is a true story. It is the story of



THIS - THIS IS INCREDIBLE! FROM ALL APPEARANCES IT LOOKS LIKE THE WITCH OF THE MYSTERY STORY KILLED DORNE? IT'S FANTASTIC.

WELL, DORNE SAYS THE WITCH REALLY LIVES. NOW YOU HAVE PROOF OF IT!



DID I HEAR SOMEONE MENTION - A WITCH?



WHO ARE YOU?

JOSHUA GRIMM - AUTHOR OF MANY BOOKS ON WITCHCRAFT AND DEMONOLOGY? THE POLICEMAN OUTSIDE TELLS ME ERIK DORNE WAS MURDERED? TCH-TCH?



WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

WHEN I SAW ERIK TODAY AT THE PUBLISHING OFFICE, HE ASKED ME, "WHEN IS A WITCH NOT A WITCH?" - AND THEN SMIRKED AND WALKED AWAY! I CAME DOWN TO FIND OUT WHAT HE MEANT BY THAT! MY WORK, YOU KNOW!



WHY-WHAT IS THIS?...
ERIK...
WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO HIM?

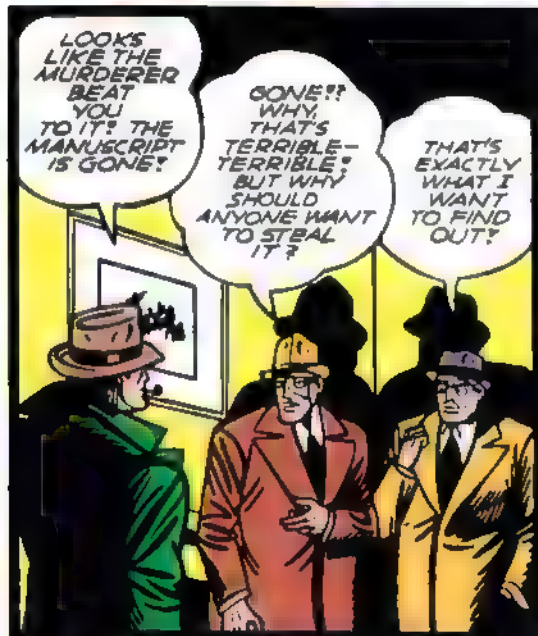
HE'S BEEN MURDERED!
WHO ARE YOU?

THIS IS MR. WRIGHT,
THE MAN WHO PUBLISHES
DORNE'S BOOKS?



AND WHAT MADE YOU COME AROUND THIS PARTICULAR NIGHT?

ERIK DID? SAID HE HAD A NEW MYSTERY NOVEL FOR ME? I CAME TO PICK UP THE MANUSCRIPT?



LOOKS LIKE THE MURDERER BEAT YOU TO IT! THE MANUSCRIPT IS GONE?

GONE?! WHY THAT'S TERRIBLE-
TERRIBLE! BUT WHY SHOULD ANYONE WANT TO STEAL IT?

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I WANT TO FIND OUT!



COME ALONG, BRUCE. ERIK DORNE WASN'T EXACTLY A LOVABLE FELLOW. SO I'M GOING TO QUESTION SOME SUSPECTS.

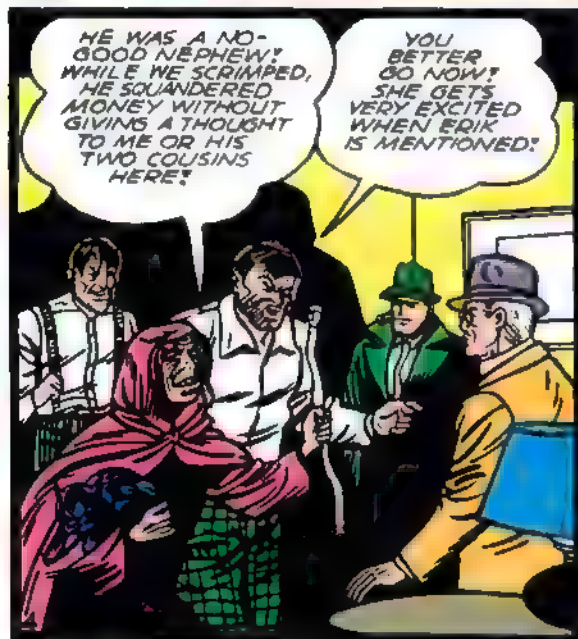
SUSPECTS! SOUNDS JUST LIKE A MYSTERY STORY!



GORDON QUESTIONS ERIK DORNE'S AUNT... MELISSA BRUNT?

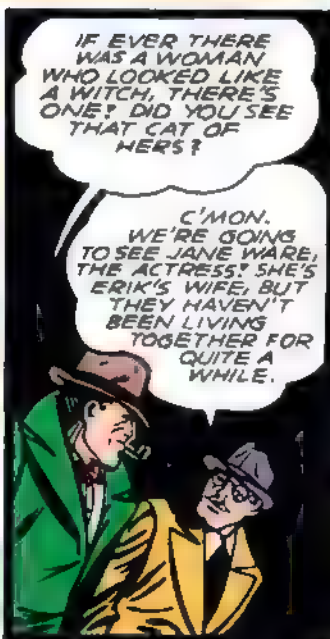
SO MY NEPHEW WAS MURDERED, EH? WELL, GOOD RIDDANCE TO BAD RUBBISH, I ALWAYS SAY!

HOW CAN YOU SPEAK LIKE THAT OF THE DEAD? HE WAS YOUR NEPHEW!



HE WAS A NO-GOOD NEPHEW! WHILE WE SCRIMPED, HE SQUANDERED MONEY WITHOUT GIVING A THOUGHT TO ME OR HIS TWO COUSINS HERE!

YOU BETTER GO NOW! SHE GETS VERY EXCITED WHEN ERIK IS MENTIONED!



IF EVER THERE WAS A WOMAN WHO LOOKED LIKE A WITCH, THERE'S ONE! DID YOU SEE THAT CAT OF HERS?

C'MON. WE'RE GOING TO SEE JANE WARE, THE ACTRESS! SHE'S ERIK'S WIFE, BUT THEY HAVEN'T BEEN LIVING TOGETHER FOR QUITE A WHILE.



AS THEY GO BACKSTAGE AND ENTER JANE WARE'S DRESSING ROOM, THEY GET A DECIDED SHOCK...

LOOK! A WITCH?

WITH A LAUGH, THE WITCH PEELS OFF HER "FACE".....

THAT'S MAKEUP!
MISS WARE PLAYS
A WITCH IN THE
PLAY
SHE IS STARRING IN.

WHAT
IS IT YOU
WANT TO
TELL ME,
COMMISSIONER?

I DON'T
KNOW HOW
TO SAY IT,
BUT YOUR
HUSBAND—
HE'S DEAD!

SO HE'S
DEAD?
THAT MEANS
YOU'RE
FREE
AT
LAST!

BUT
YOU ARE
OF THE
POLICE?
DOES
THAT
MEAN....?

YES!
MURDER!
AND
PERHAPS,
NOW,
YOU CAN
EXPLAIN
THIS
GENTLEMAN'S
REMARK?

I WANTED
A DIVORCE
FROM
ERIK
SO I
COULD
MARRY
HARVEY
MORROW,
HERE—

—BUT
HE
WOULDN'T
GIVE IT
TO HER?
NOW WE
CAN GET
MARRIED
AT
LAST!

NOT A
BAD
EXCUSE
FOR A
MURDER,
EH,
MR.
MORROW?

WHEN BRUCE AND GORDON
LEAVE.....

YOU KNOW,
JANE WARE
COULD HAVE
SNEAKED OFF
DURING STAGE
INTERMISSION,
KILLED DORNE,
AND GOT BACK
IN TIME TO
CONTINUE
HER ROLE.

PERHAPS
SHE, IN
HER
MAKEUP,
WAS THE
WITCH THE
BUTLER
SAW.

LOOK! DORNE'S
STORY CONCERNS
A REAL WITCH—
JOSHUA GRIMM
WRITES BOOKS
ABOUT WITCHES—
WRIGHT PUBLISHES
THEM— MISS
BRUNT LOOKS
LIKE A WITCH,
AND JANE
WARE'S STAGE
ROLE IS THAT OF
A WITCH! LORD?

THE
TROUBLE IS
YOU DON'T
KNOW WHICH
WITCH
IS WHICH!

DORNE WAS
KILLED
BECAUSE HIS
STORY WAS
GOING TO
EXPOSE A
PERSON WHO
WAS A WITCH?
THAT'S WHY
THE MANUSCRIPT
WAS STOLEN?

SOMEONE
LIVING TWO
SEPARATE
LIVES, EH? WELL,
COMMISSIONER,
IT'S TOO DEEP
FOR ME!
PARDON ME
WHILE I GO
HOME AND
DREAM ABOUT
WITCHES!
TR-TA!

UPON REACHING HIS HOME,
BRUCE ACQUAINTS HIS YOUNG
WARD, DICK GRAYSON, WITH
THE FACTS OF THE CASE...

WHAT'S
THAT
IN YOUR
HAND?
LOOKS
LIKE
HAIR?

IT IS! I PICKED
IT UP FROM THE
MURDER ROOM!
IT'S HAIR
FROM A WIG—
PROBABLY TORN
OFF WHEN THE
BUTLER
STRUGGLED
WITH THE
WITCH!

I WANT YOU
TO GET ME A
SAMPLE OF HAIR
FROM THE WIG
WORN BY JANE
WARE IN HER
"WITCH" STAGE
ROLE.

I
GET IT—
IF THE
HAIRS
MATCH,
THAT MEANS
JANE
WARE IS
GUILTY!

THE NEXT NIGHT, THE TWO DON CLOSE-FITTING COSTUMES, WHICH REVEAL PHYSIQUES OF BREATH-TAKING SYMMETRY....

IF MISS BRUNT KILLED DORNE, THEN SHE MUST HAVE HIDDEN THE MANUSCRIPT! I'M GOING TO LOOK IN HER HOME!

WHEN THE DYNAMIC DUO, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN, INVESTIGATE, EVEN PERFECT CRIMES CAN BE SOLVED!

MOMENTS LATER, A SLIM FIGURE DARTS PAST THE UNWARY STAGE-DOOR WATCHMAN....

THE BOY WONDER MOVES SWIFTLY UP THE STAIRS THAT LEAD TO THE DRESSING ROOMS....

THIS IS THE ROOM? NOW, FOR THAT WIG?

AS ROBIN PULLS HAIRS FROM THE WIG, THE DOOR SUDDENLY SWINGS OPEN...

THE FIRST ACT IS... WHA...?

A SNEAK THIEF?

MOVING INCREDIBLY SWIFT, ROBIN BOUNDS ACROSS THE ROOM...

SORRY I HAVE TO DO THIS, MISTER!

MPH!

AS ROBIN DASHES OUT ONTO THE STAIR RAMP, STAGE HANDS RUN FORWARD AS MORROW CRIES OUT...

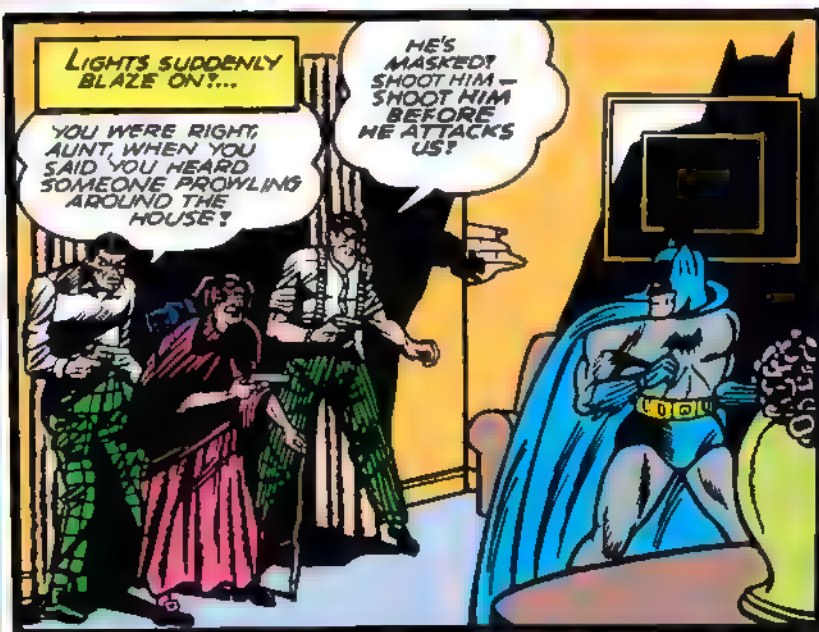
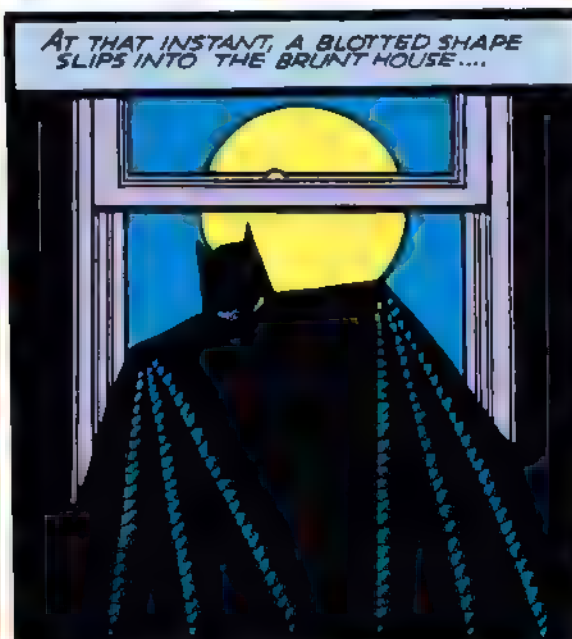
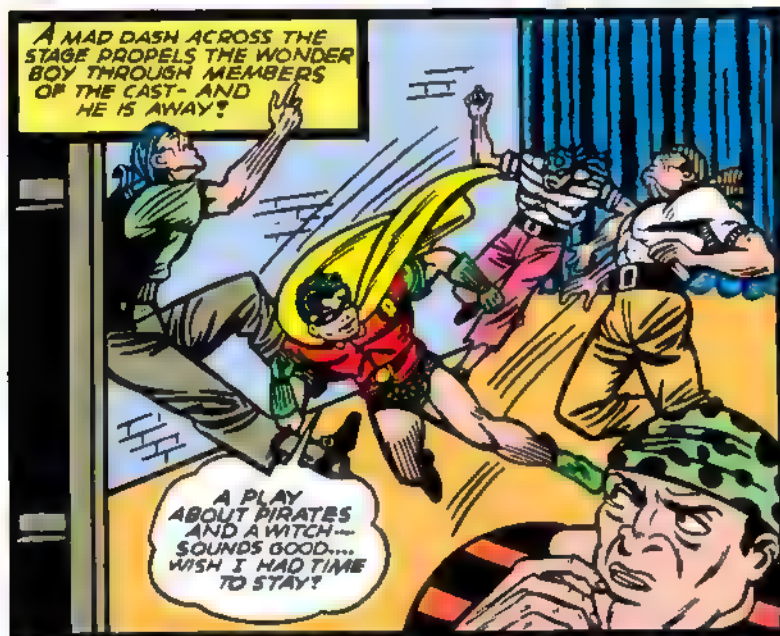
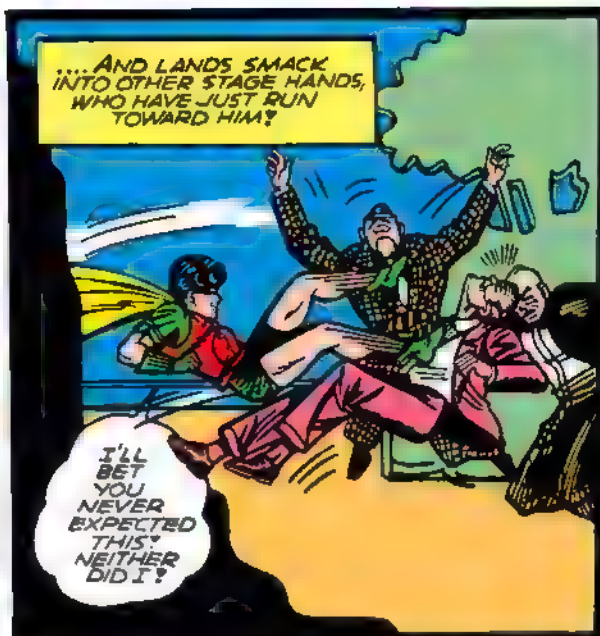
GET HIM! HE'S A THIEF! STOP HIM!

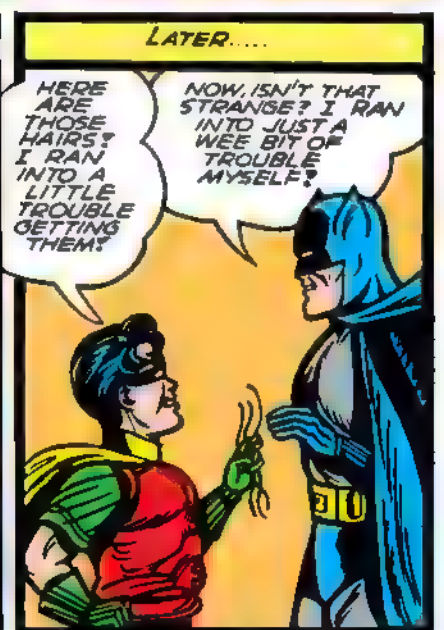
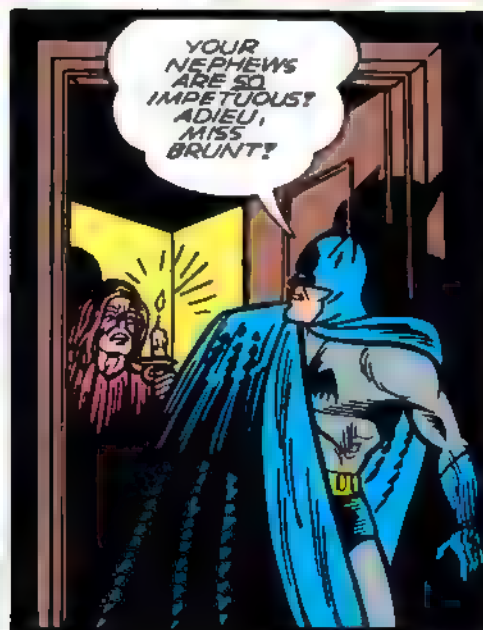
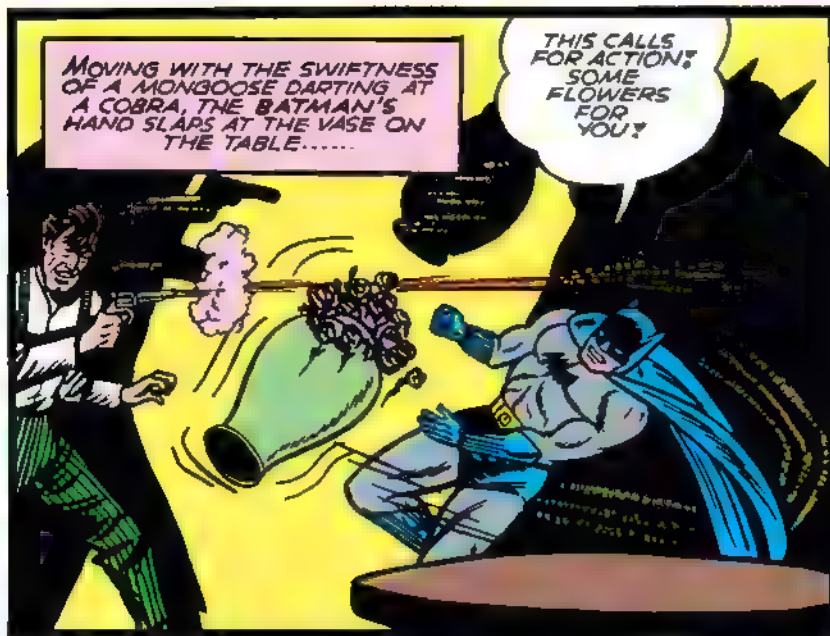
OH-OH! COMING AT ME FROM ALL SIDES!

WE'LL GET HIM!

ROBIN DECIDES UPON A HEADLONG DIVE INTO SPACE....

BETTER THIS WAY!





THE BATMAN PLACES THE DIFFERENT HAIRS UNDER HIS MICROSCOPE FOR COMPARISON...



HMM?

WHAT HAS THE BATMAN DISCOVERED ABOUT THE TWO HAIRS?

AT THAT VERY MOMENT, THE MYSTERIOUS WITCH LAUGHS.....



IT WOULD NEVER DO FOR THE POLICE TO READ THIS MANUSCRIPT! NEVER! HEE HEE!

THE NEXT DAY.....



I'VE BEEN THINKING OVER WHAT EACH SUSPECT SAID, AND I THINK I KNOW NOW WHO IS GUILTY! ...AND I'VE GOT A PLAN TO PROVE IT!

BRUCE DIALS A NUMBER.....



YOU SAY YOU ARE A POLICE REPORTER?

YES? I'VE JUST COME FROM THE HOSPITAL. THE BUTLER IS STILL IN A BAD WAY, BUT HE KEEPS MUMBLING ABOUT A DUPLICATE MANUSCRIPT HIDDEN IN ERIK DORNE'S ROOM?

NATURALLY, THIS WOULD AFFECT YOUR OCCUPATION! HAVE YOU ANY COMMENT ON THOSE PAPERS?



NO COMMENT! SORRY! CLICK!

I'VE PLANTED THE BAIT! NOW, LET'S HOPE OUR PARTY TAKES A NIBBLE AT IT!



WHO DID BRUCE PHONE? WHO DO YOU THINK IS THE WITCH?



THAT NIGHT, A SHADOWY FIGURE POISES OUTSIDE THE WINDOW OF THE LATE ERIK DORNE'S ROOM.....

NOISELESSLY, IT GLIDES INTO THE ROOM..... AT THAT MOMENT, THE MOON SLIPS OUT FROM BEHIND DARK CLOUDS AND REVEALS IN ITS LIGHT..... THE WITCH!



THAT HIDDEN MANUSCRIPT MUST BE AROUND SOMEPLACE!

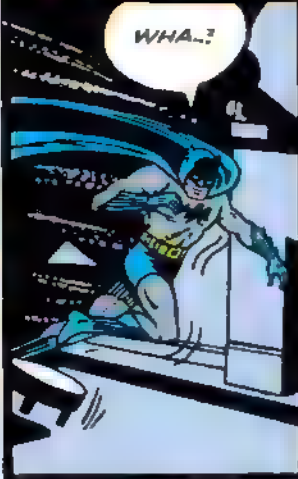
ABRUPTLY, TWO FIGURES LEAP OUT OF DARKENED CORNERS.....THE BATMAN AND ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER?



HUH?

GOOD EVENING, WITCH?

THEN, ONE OF THOSE UNFORESEEN LITTLE THINGS HAPPENS..... THE BATMAN TRIPS OVER A FOOTSTOOL IN HIS PATH.....



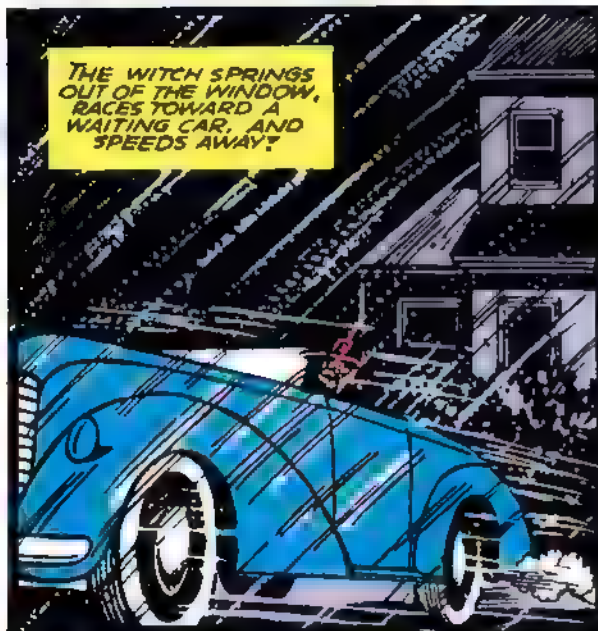
WHA...?

THE WITCH IS QUICK TO TAKE ADVANTAGE, AND WHIRLING SWIFTLY, BRINGS THE STAFF DOWN ON ROBIN...



NOT SO FAST, BOY!

THE WITCH SPRINGS OUT OF THE WINDOW, RACES TOWARD A WAITING CAR, AND SPEEDS AWAY?



THE DYNAMIC DUO PURSUES....



WE'LL HAVE TO BORROW THIS CAR HERE.

LUCKY THAT STAFF ONLY GRAZED ME?

JAGGED STREAKS OF WHITE LIGHTNING LEAP IN THE SKY AS THE MAD CHASE BEGINS...



IF THIS WERE THE BATMOBILE, WE'D BE ON TOP OF THAT CAR IN NO TIME?

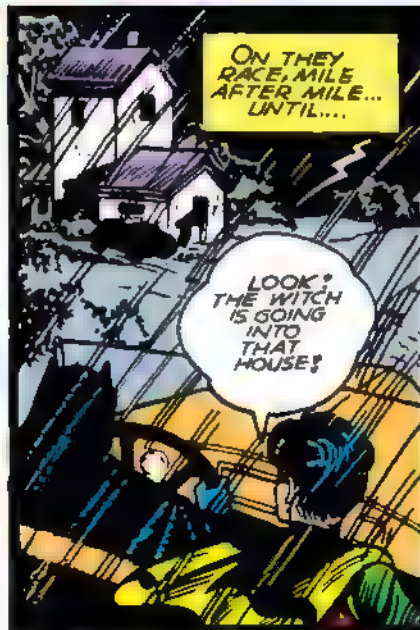
THIS IS ONE DEVELOPMENT IN THE CASE I NEVER EXPECTED?

IT IS A WEIRD SCENE AS THE WITCH'S SHRIEKING, INSANE LAUGHTER IS HEARD ABOVE THE STORM'S FURY...

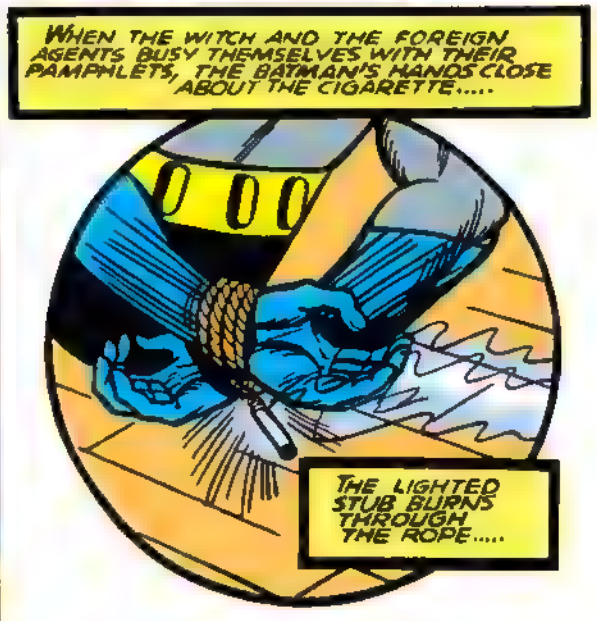
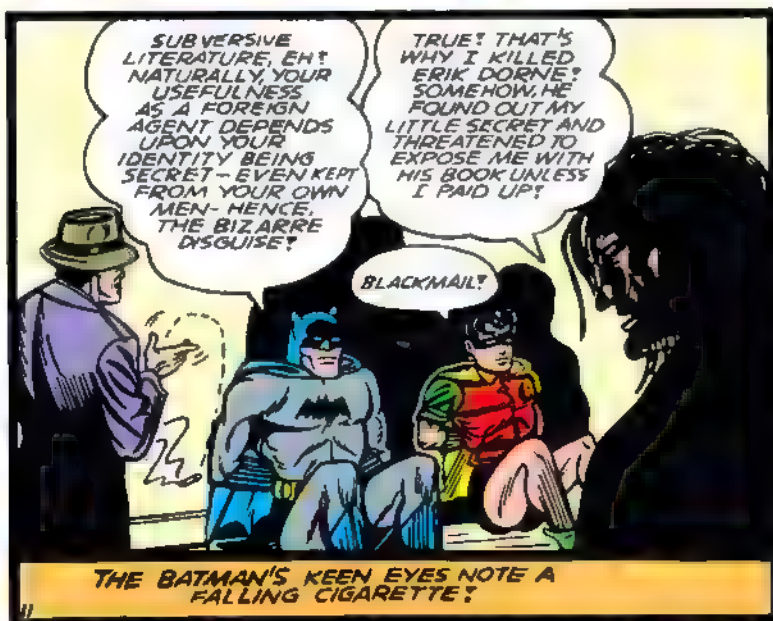
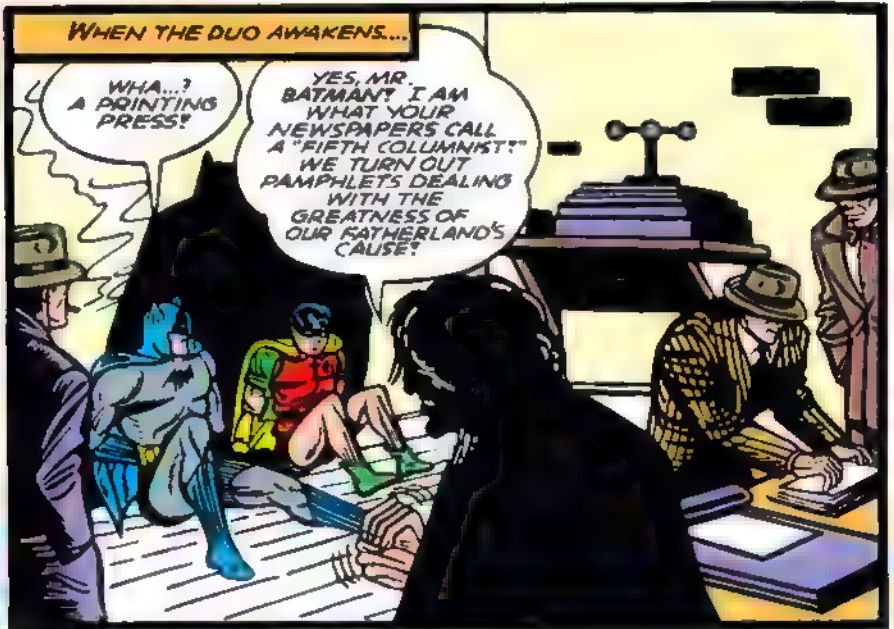
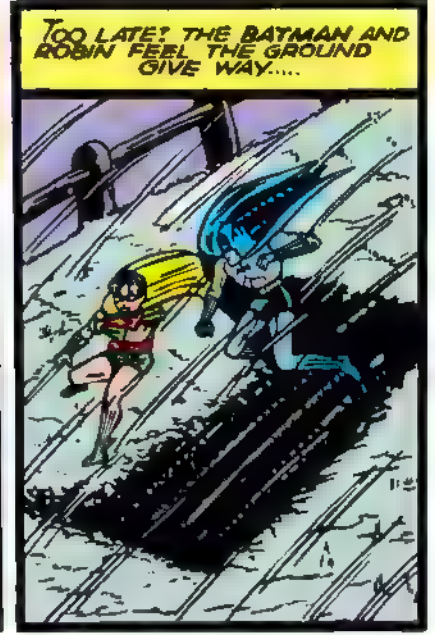
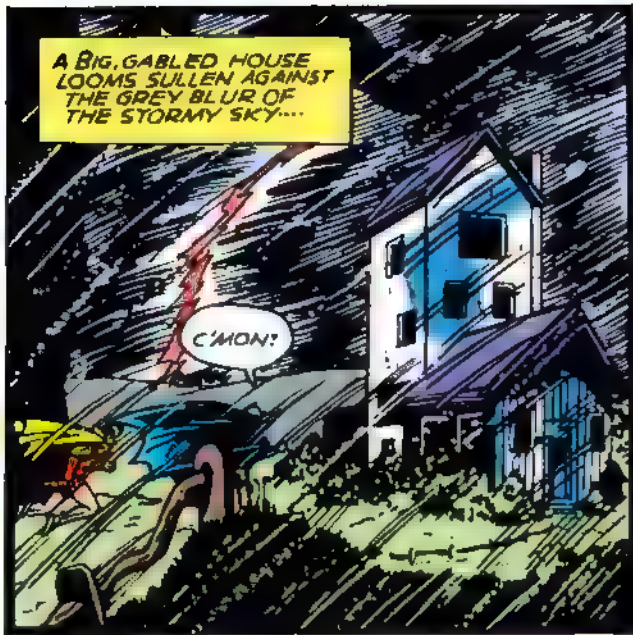


HEE-HEE-HEE-

ON THEY RACE, MILE AFTER MILE... UNTIL....



LOOK? THE WITCH IS GOING INTO THAT HOUSE?



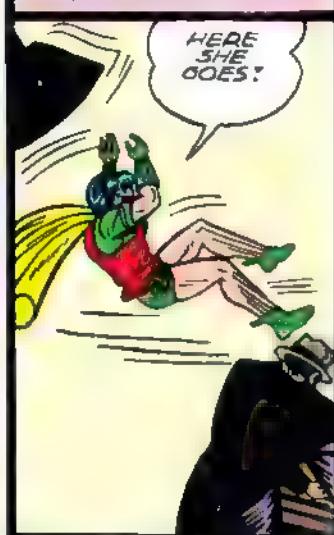
AS SOON AS HIS HANDS ARE LOOSE, THE BATMAN SLIDES A BLADE FROM HIS BELT AND FURTIVELY SLICES ROBIN'S BONDS.....



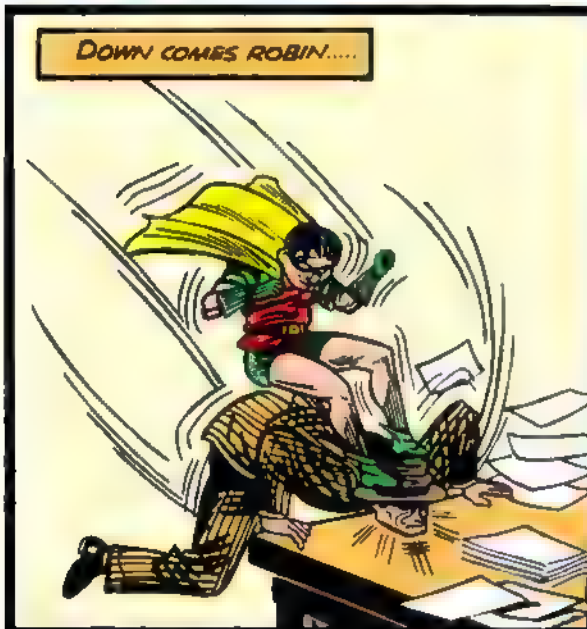
ABRUPTLY, ROBIN SPRINGS FROM THE FLOOR.....



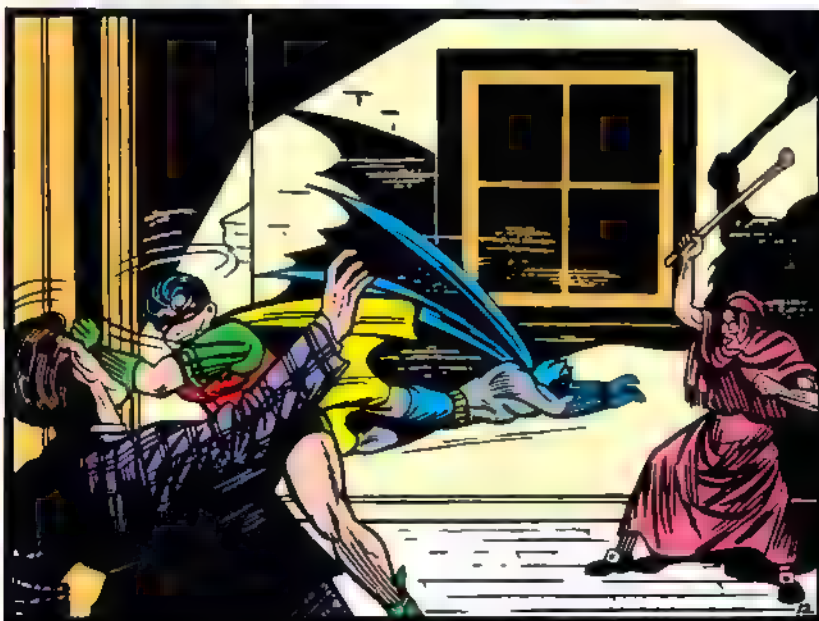
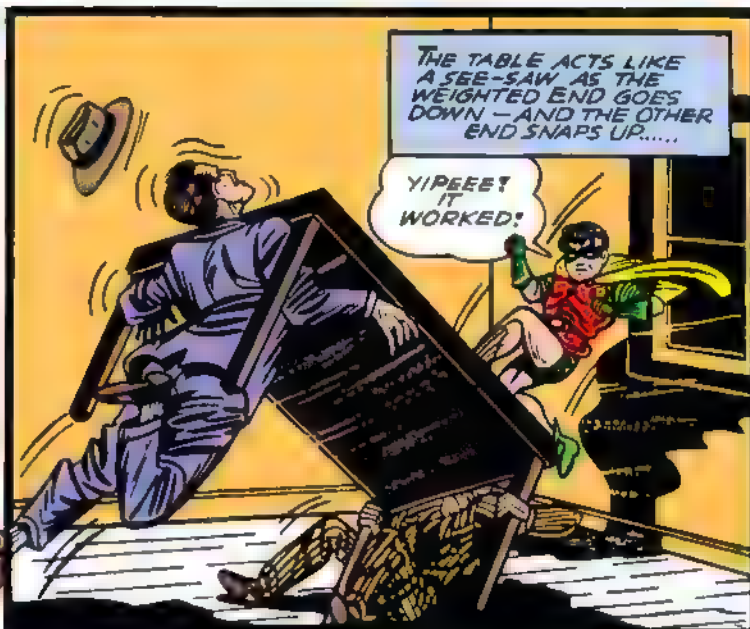
HIS STRONG HANDS CLOSE ABOUT THE CHANDELIER, HE SWINGS OUT, RELEASES HIS GRIP....



DOWN COMES ROBIN.....



THE TABLE ACTS LIKE A SEE-SAW AS THE WEIGHTED END GOES DOWN - AND THE OTHER END SNAPS UP.....



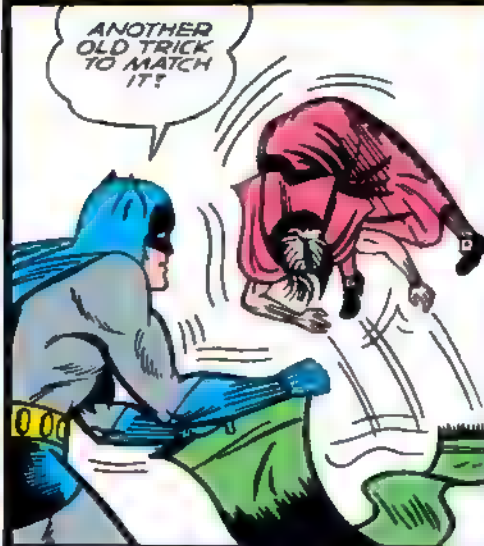
THE STAFF CATCHES THE BATMAN ON THE SIDE OF THE HEAD.



THE WITCH PULLS AT THE STAFF, AND A GLEAMING SWORD FLASHES IN THE LIGHT....



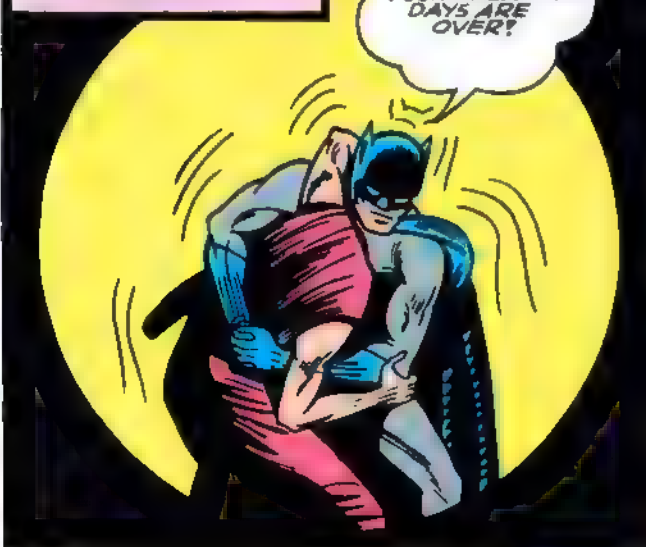
THE BATMAN TUGS AT THE CARPET STRIP AND....



THE WITCH DRAWS A GUN....



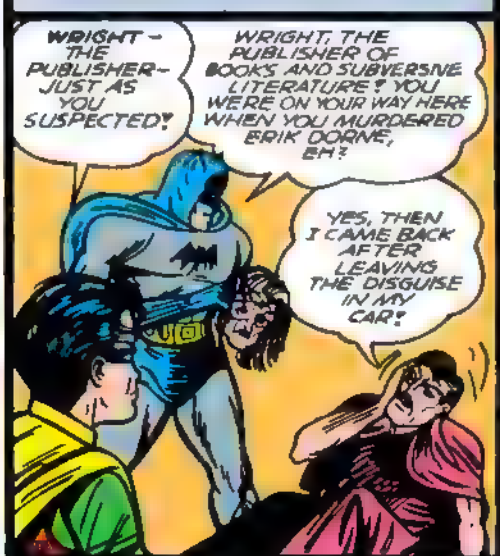
AND THE BATMAN AND WITCH LOCK IN A DEATH STRUGGLE....



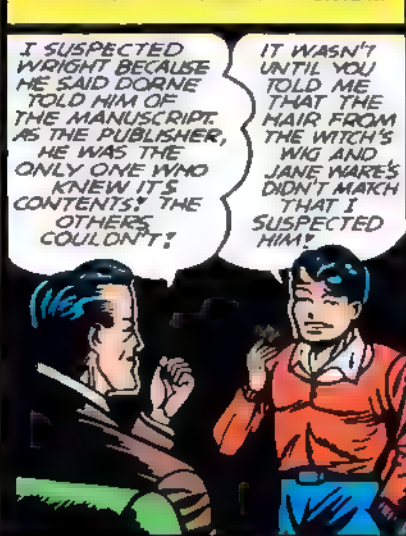
SUDDENLY... WITH A MIGHTY HEAVE.... THE WITCH GOES FLYING....



THE BATMAN RIPS AWAY THE DISGUISE AND REVEALS....



WITH THE WITCH, ALIAS WRIGHT, IN CUSTODY, BRUCE AND DICK DISCUSS THE CASE AT HOME...



NOW, WHAT SAY TO A MOVIE? THEY'VE GOT "THE WITCH WALKS!"





No. 51



THE BATMAN

Detective COMICS

REG. U. S. PAT. OFF

MAY



BAT MAN

WITH
Robin
-THE BOY WONDER-

WHEN CROOKS TAKE OVER AN AMUSEMENT PARK, ALONG WITH THE WEALTH THEY SO EAGERLY SEEK, THEY FIND THEIR DREADED NEMESIS - THE BATMAN! IT IS HE, THE MYSTERIOUS BEING OF THE DARKNESS-- AND LAUGHING, DARING, YOUNG ROBIN THE BOY WONDER, WHO, SIDE BY SIDE, BREAK UP THIS CRAFTY, EVIL GAME AND BRING SWIFT JUSTICE TO THE MINIONS OF CRIME WHO FIGURE IN----
"THE CASE OF THE MYSTERY CARNIVAL"

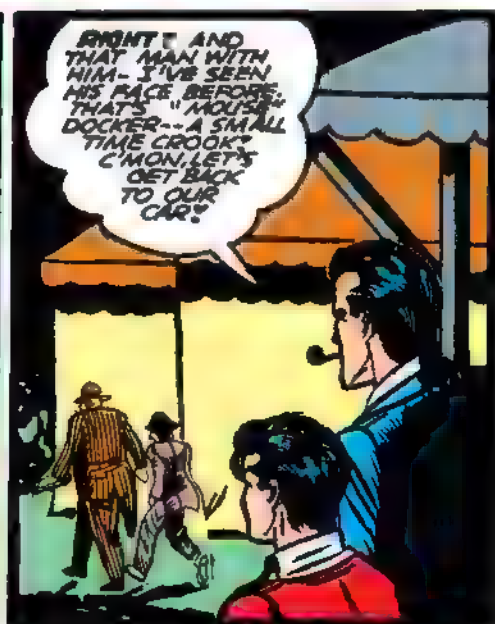
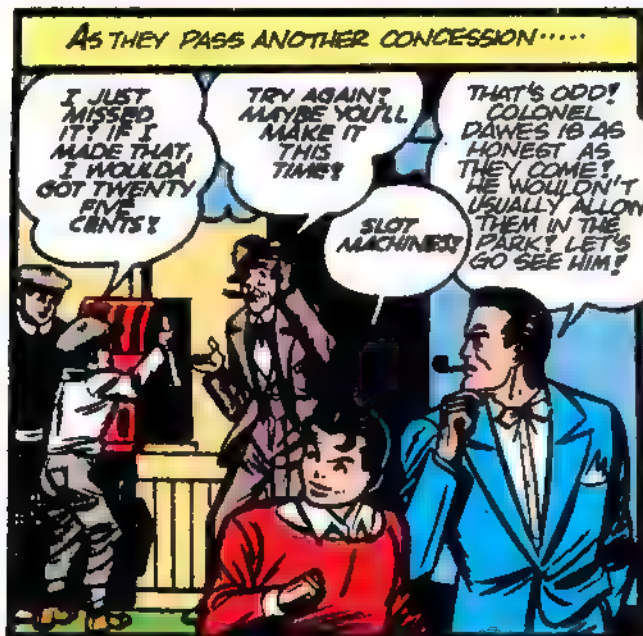
BOB
DYANE

ON A SUNNY AFTERNOON, BRUCE WAYNE AND YOUNG DICK GRAYSON GO FOR A CAR RIDE....

BOY, THIS FRESH AIR IS JUST WHAT I NEEDED!

YOU AND ME BOTH? AND BESIDES, THE RIDE WILL TAKE OUR MINDS OFF CRIME FOR A CHANGE?





BRUCE PULLS OPEN THE BACK TRUNK OF THE CAR AND PRODUCES TWO COSTUMES....

GOOD THING WE ALWAYS CARRY OUR COSTUMES ALONG JUST IN CASE!

WE'LL WAIT FOR NIGHTFALL AND THEN WE'LL INVESTIGATE OUR BOOZY FRIEND!

THE BATMAN AND ROBIN THE BOY WONDER ARE READY TO MEET SERVERS OF CRIME!

NIGHTFALL AS THE BOOZY "COLONEL DAWES" WALKS, HE IS UNAWARE OF TWO FIGURES WHO FOLLOW BEHIND LIKE TWO GRIM SHADOWS...

THERE HE GOES- INTO THAT WAX MUSEUM!

WAX MUSEUM

THEY DART PAST THE UNWARY BARKER AND FIND THEMSELVES INSIDE....

SHH! SOMEONE'S COMING!

TWO FIGURES JOIN THE EXHIBIT...

LOOK, HENRY-- WAX FIGURES OF THE BATMAN AND ROBIN THE BOY WONDER! MY DON'T THEY LOOK REAL?

I SHOULD SAY THEY DO. ANYONE WOULD THINK THEY WERE ALIVE!

WHEN THE PATRONS HAVE GONE, THE TWO FIGURES COME TO LIFE....

THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE!

CLOSE ENOUGH! NOW LET'S GET GOING- HE WENT DOWN THIS WAY!

THEY PUSH OPEN A DOOR.....

WHAT A CREEPY PLACE! MUST BE THE STORE ROOM!

QUIET! FOOTSTEPS!

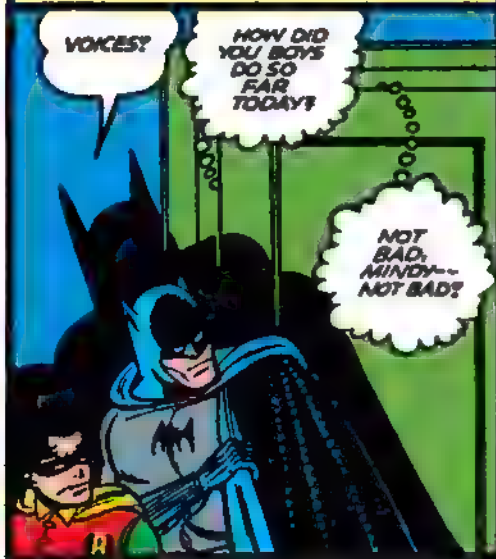
CLOP CLOP CLOP

THE OLD CARETAKER SHUFFLES NEAR....

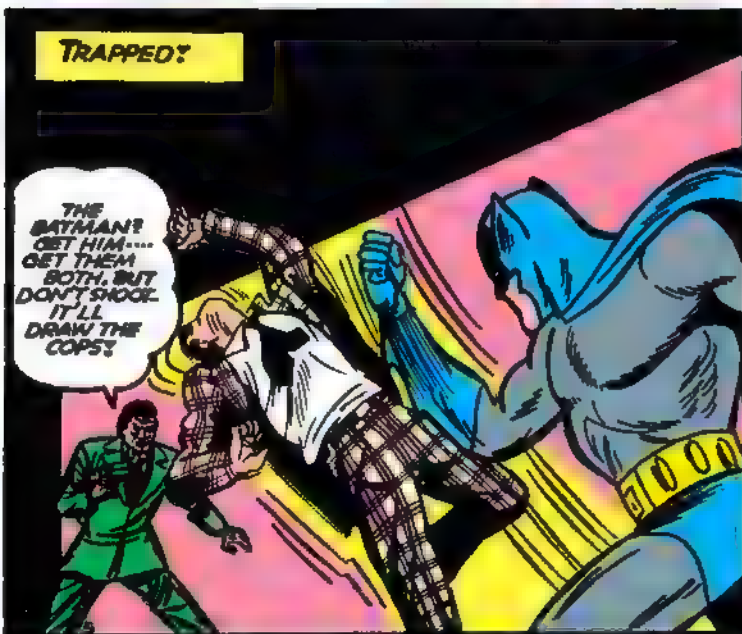
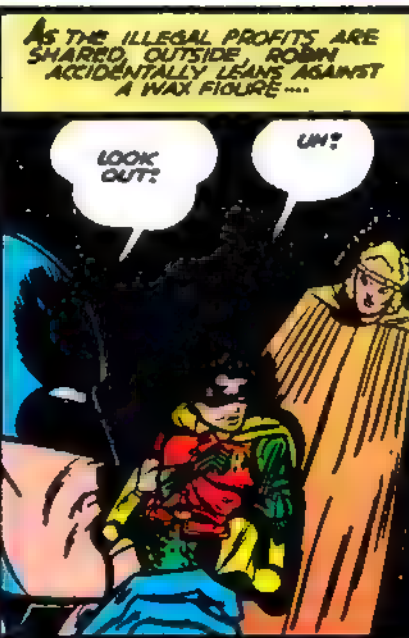
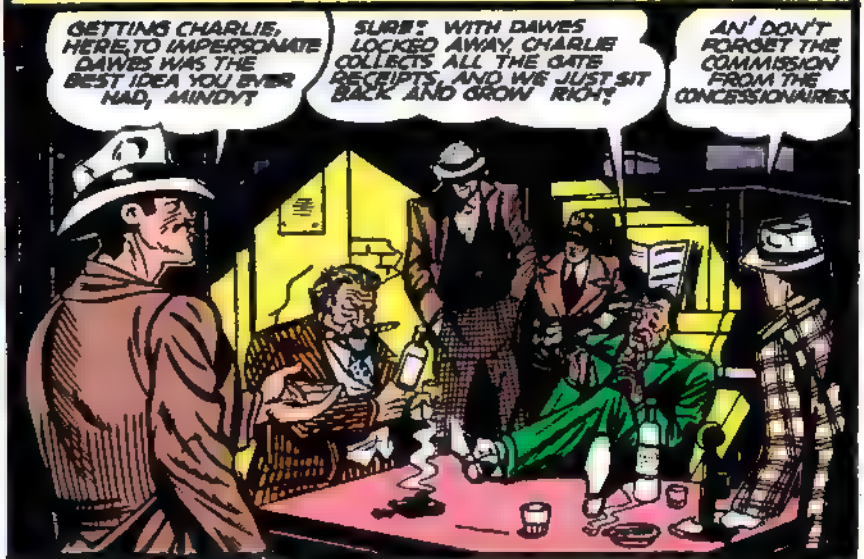
HELLO, NAPOLEON! I JUST SAW THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON. HE WAS ASKING ABOUT YOU... AND YOU, HUNCHBACK... IT'S TIME TO RING THE BELLS OF NOTRE DAME!

I NEVER SAW YOU TWO BEFORE, BUT NO MATTER... YOU ARE WELCOME TO JOIN MY LITTLE FAMILY. I'LL COME BACK AND TALK TO YOU LATER.... HEE HEE....

AGAIN THE BATMAN AND ROBIN FLIT SILENTLY IN THE GLOOM... WHEN -



THE BATMAN PLACES HIS EYES AGAINST A CRACK IN THE DOOR AND SEES.....



THEY ARE SECURELY TRUSSED AND
TOSSED INTO A ROOM....

I DON'T
LIKE THIS,
MINDY---
SOMETHING'S
WRONG!

WE'VE GOT TO
WORK FAST.
YOU GUYS GO
OUT AND PULL
AS MANY
HOLDUPS
AS YOU CAN--
THEN WE'LL
GET OUTA
HERE!

YEAH--
HOW DID
THE BATMAN
KNOW OUR
GAME?

THE MEN LEAVE....

THIS IS
NOT SO...
LOOK--OVER
THERE ON
THE BED?

DAWES?
THE REAL
COLONEL
DAWES?

THE BATMAN CALLS DAWES
BUT HE DOES NOT ANSWER....

SOMETHING'S
WRONG.
HE DOESN'T
EVEN
WAKE
UP.

YET, HE'S
ALIVE!
I CAN
HEAR HIM
BREATHING.
IF ONLY
I COULD
GET FREE!

HOURS PASS. WHEN
SUDDENLY THE DOOR
OPENS--AND A BENT
FIGURE ENTERS THE ROOM--

TIED YOU
UP, DIDN'T
THEY?
HEE HEE

THE
CARETAKER--

...AND
HE'S
GOT A
KNIFE?

THE KNIFE DESCENDS--TO CUT
THEIR BONDS?

I SAW THEM--
I SAW THEM TIE
YOU UP! I MUST
FREE YOU SO YOU
CAN GO BACK TO
YOUR PLACES AND
JOIN MY LITTLE
FAMILY
AGAIN!

THE POOR
MAN THINKS
WE'RE STILL
WAX FIGURES--
FROM HIS
LITTLE FAMILY,
AS HE CALLS
IT!

HE'S
BREATHING
HEAVILY,
BUT HIS
HEART
ACTION IS
WEAK! HE'S
BEEN
DRUGGED!

WE'D
BETTER
GET HIM
TO A
DOCTOR
RIGHT
AWAY!

HEE
HEE?

I'LL TAKE HIM
TO ONE. YOU STAY
HERE AND TRY TO
STOP MINDY'S
GANG WITHOUT
GETTING HURT.

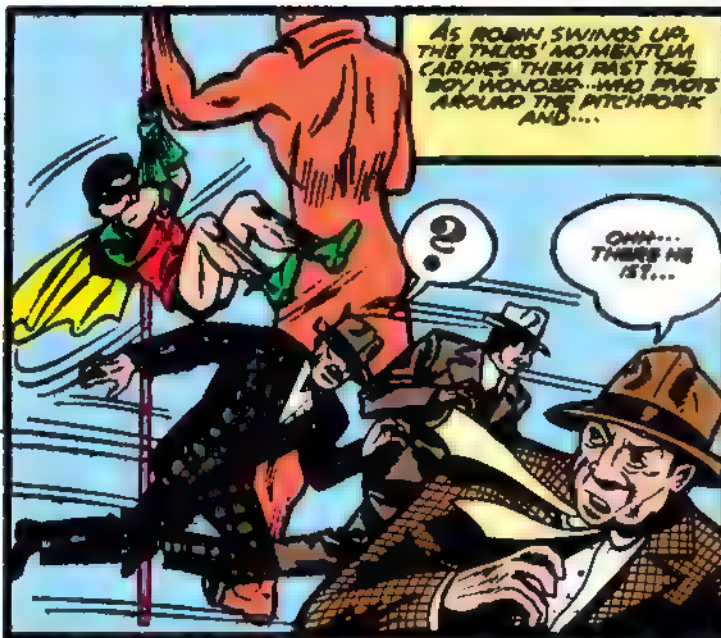
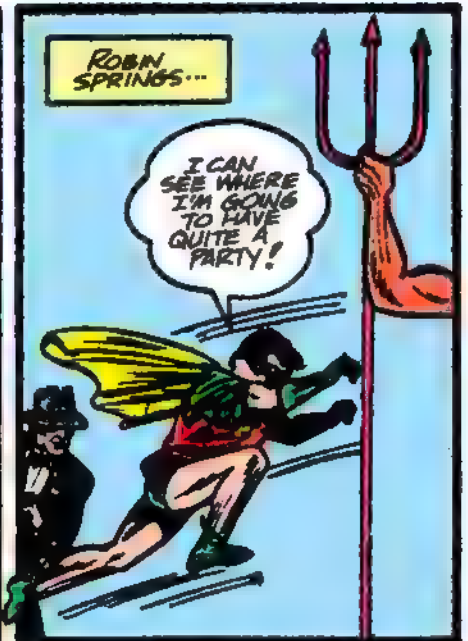
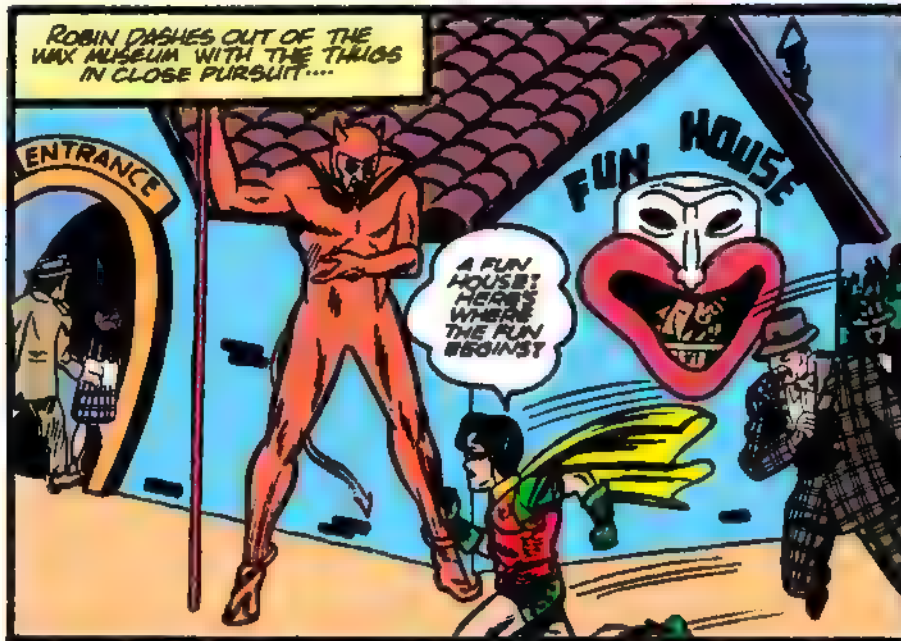
RIGHT?

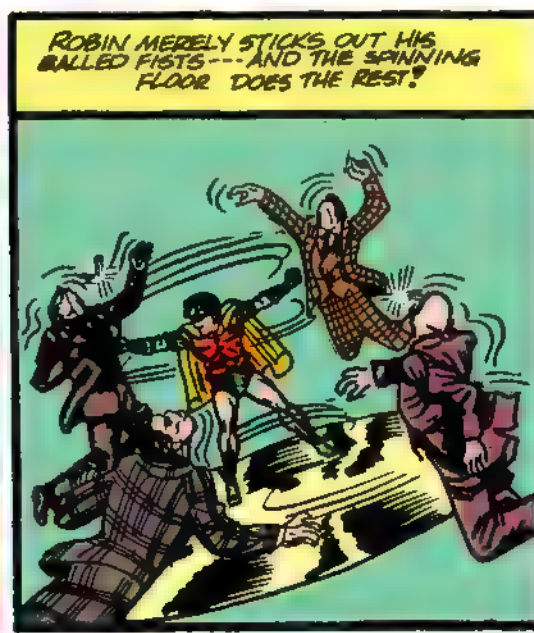
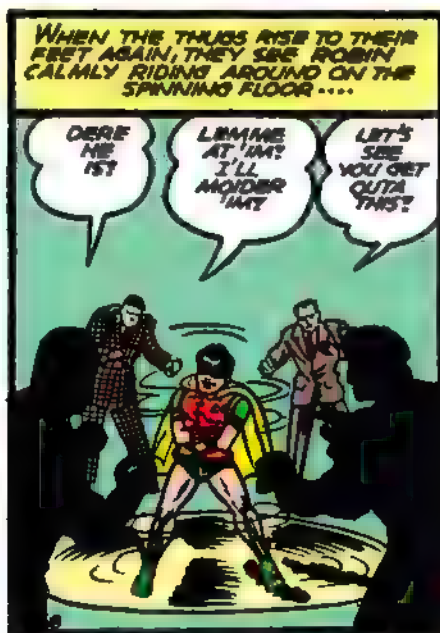
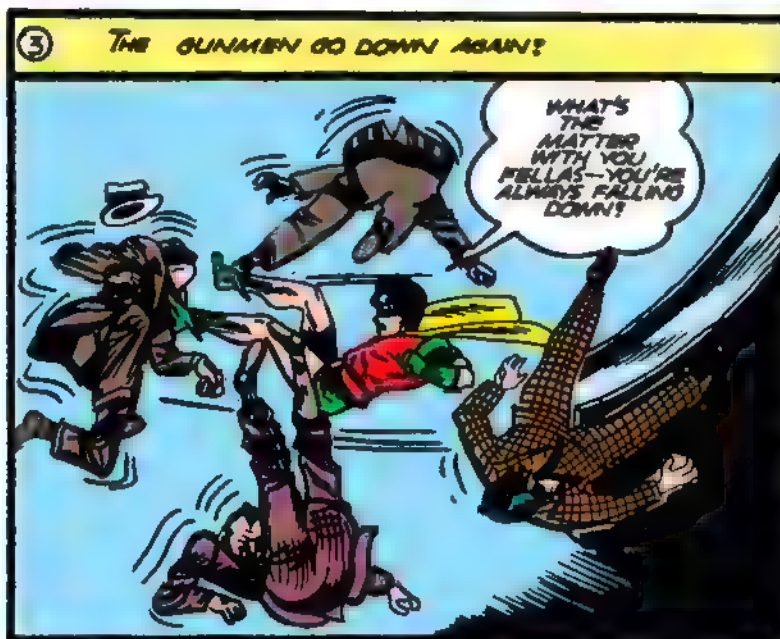
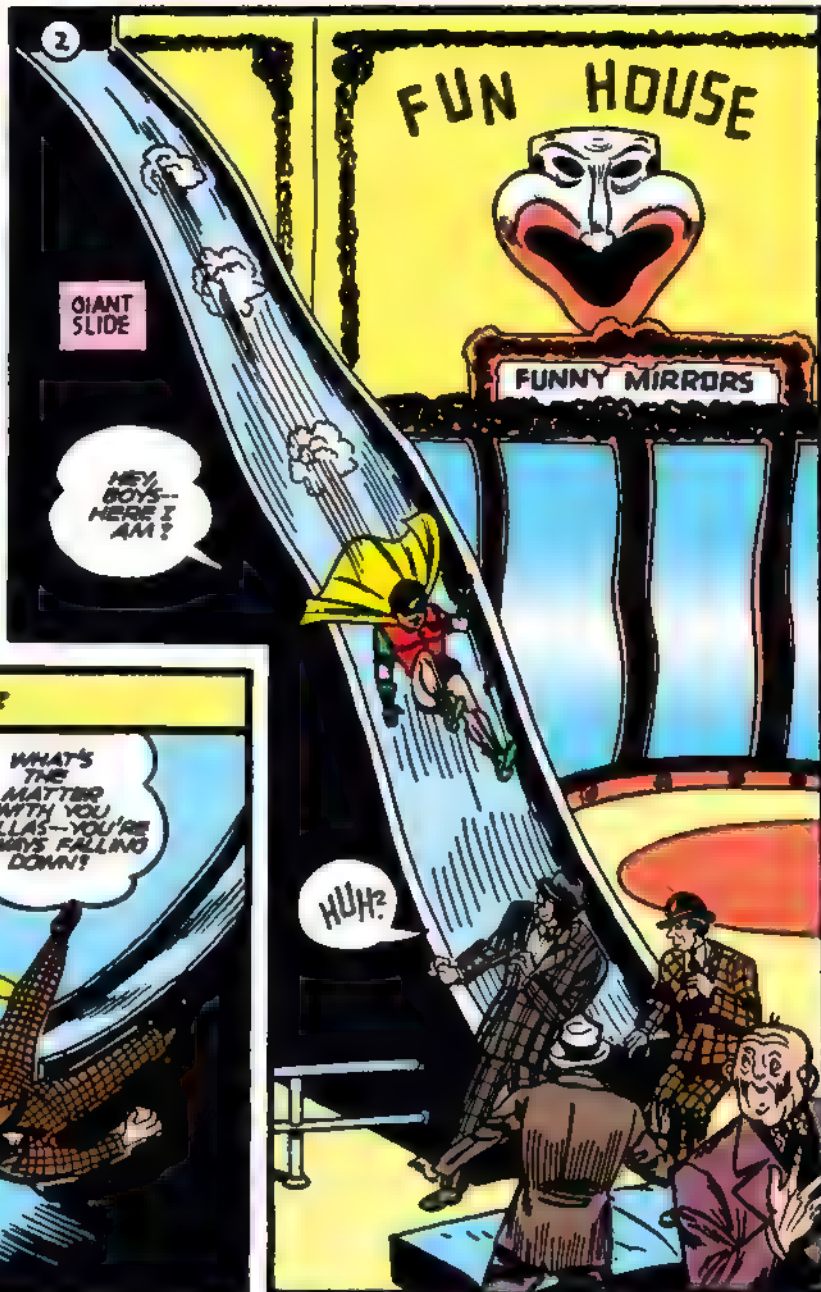
AFTER THE BATMAN HAS GONE, ROBIN
CAUTIOUSLY STEPS OUT INTO THE
WAX MUSEUM WHEN--

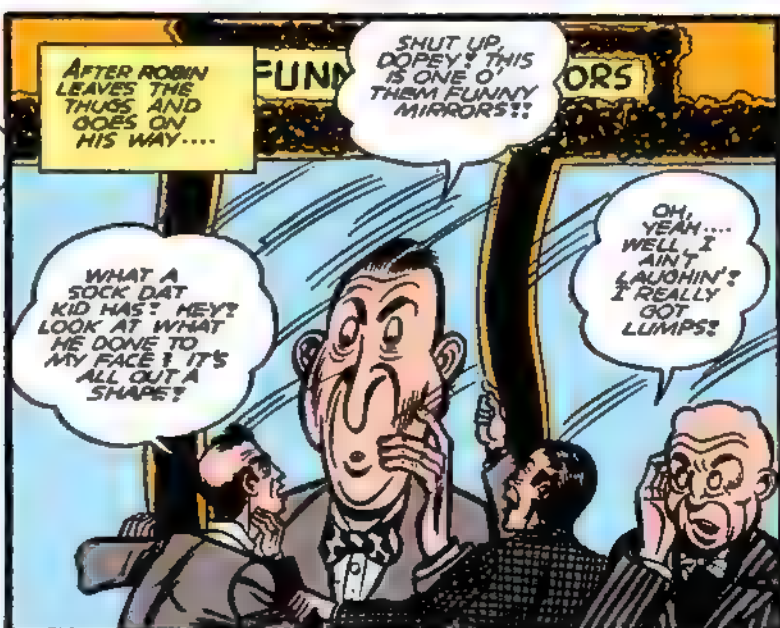
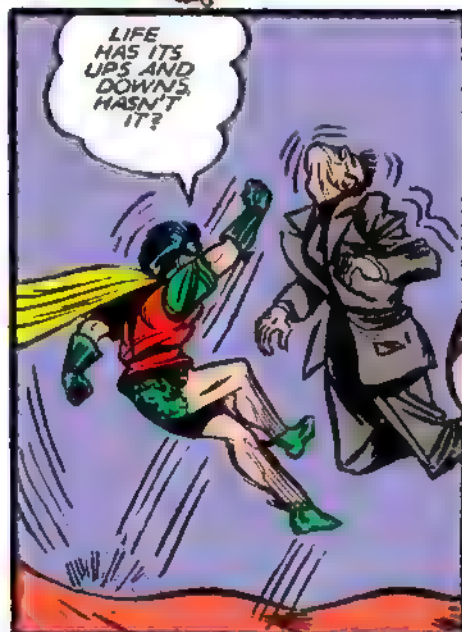
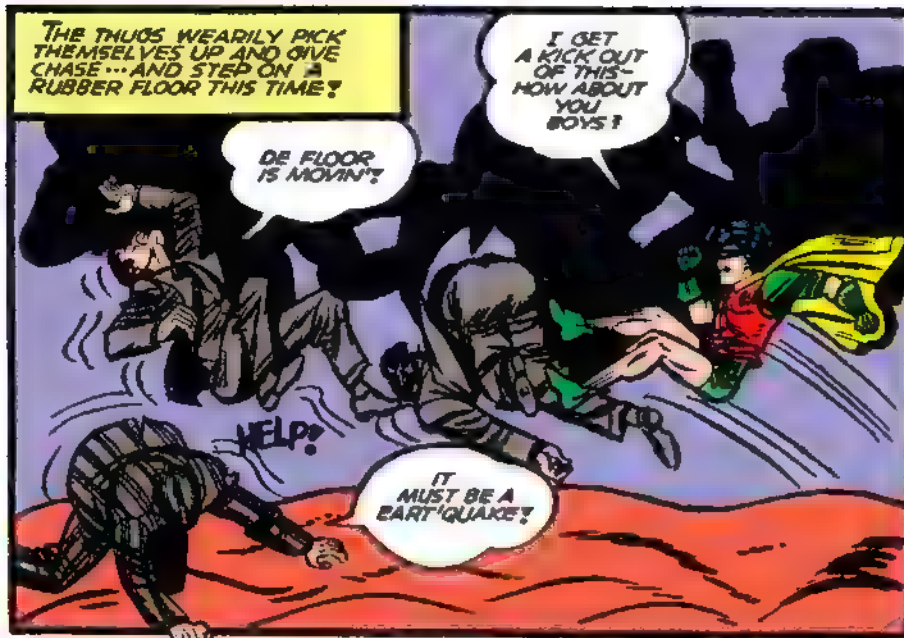
LOOK....
THE KID
THAT WORKS
WITH
THE
BATMAN!

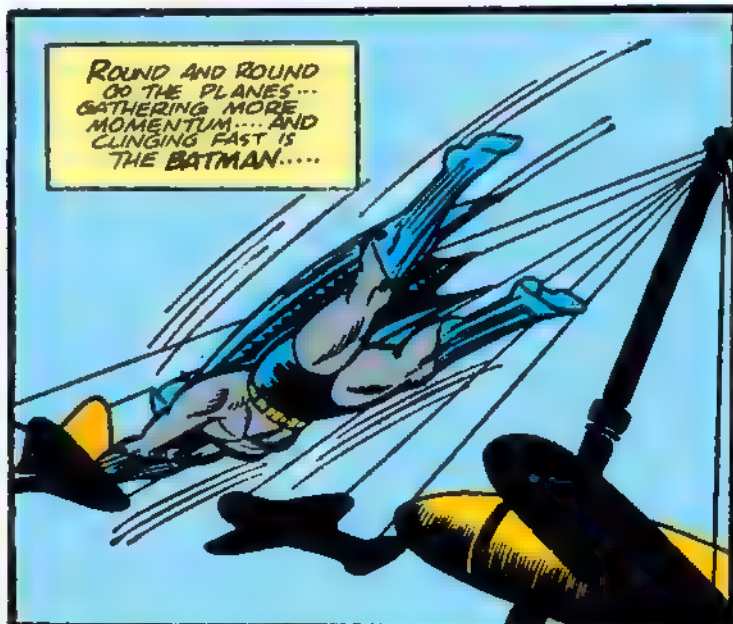
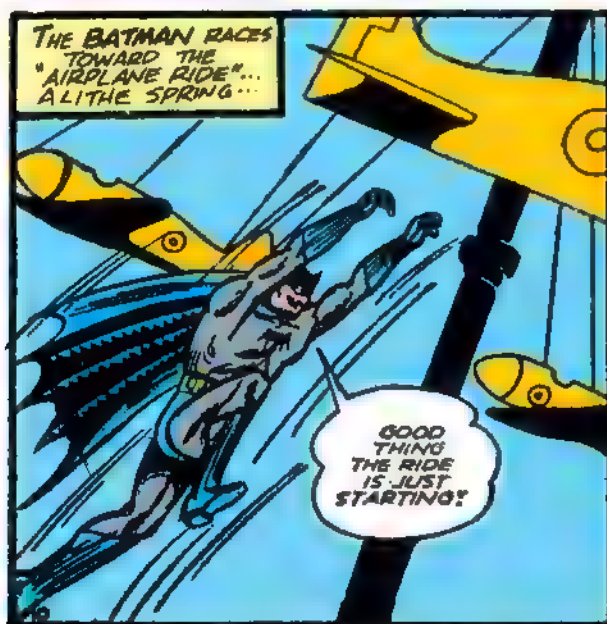
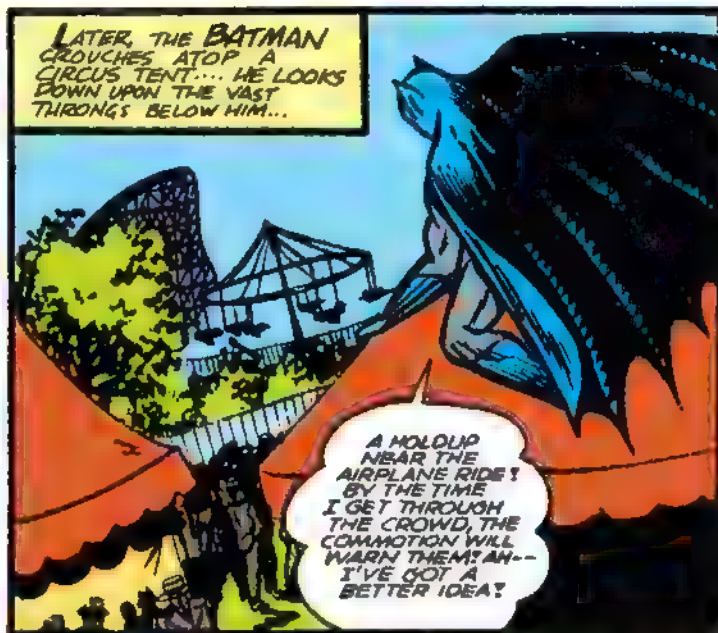
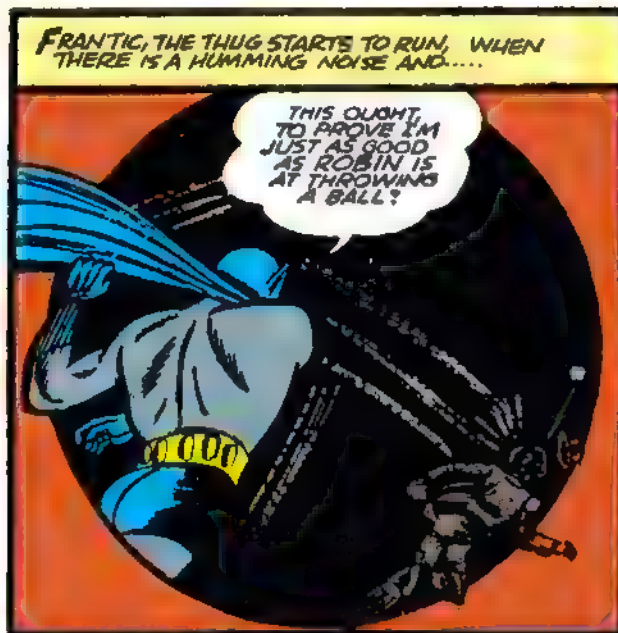
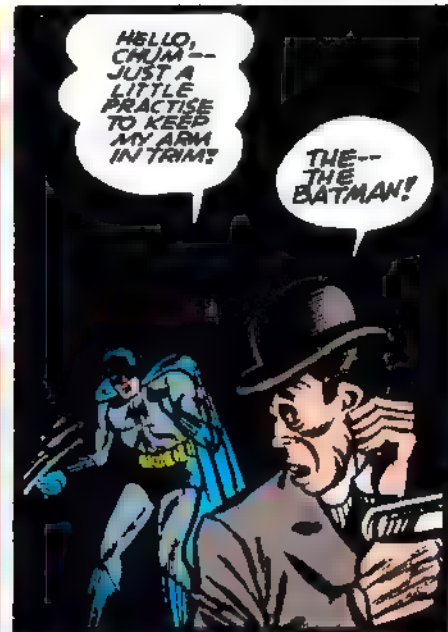
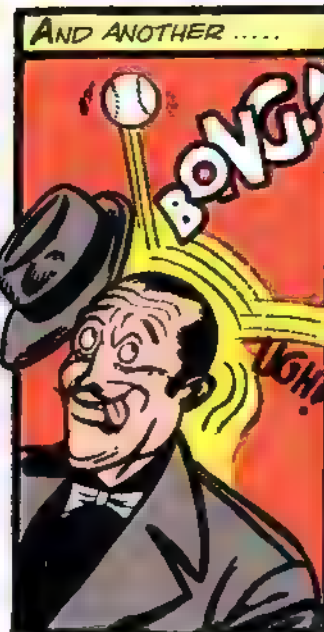
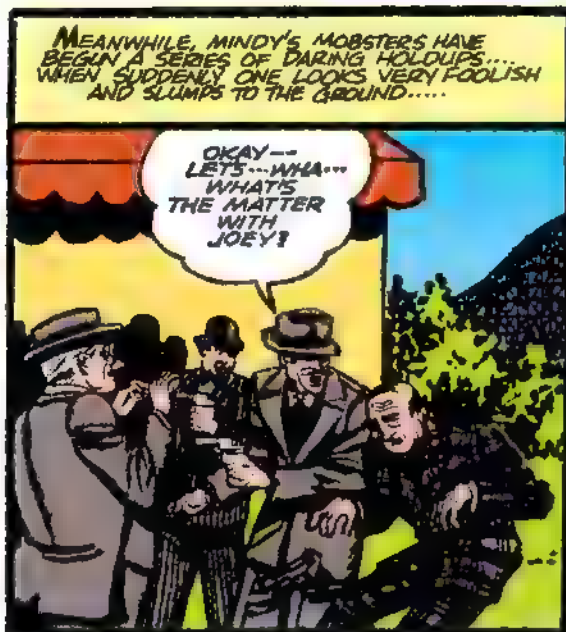
GET HIM
BEFORE
HE CALLS
THE COPS!
C'MON!

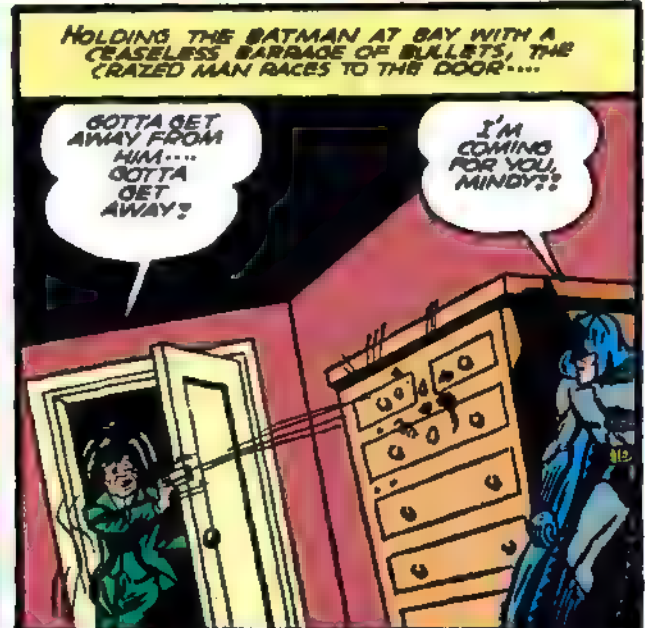
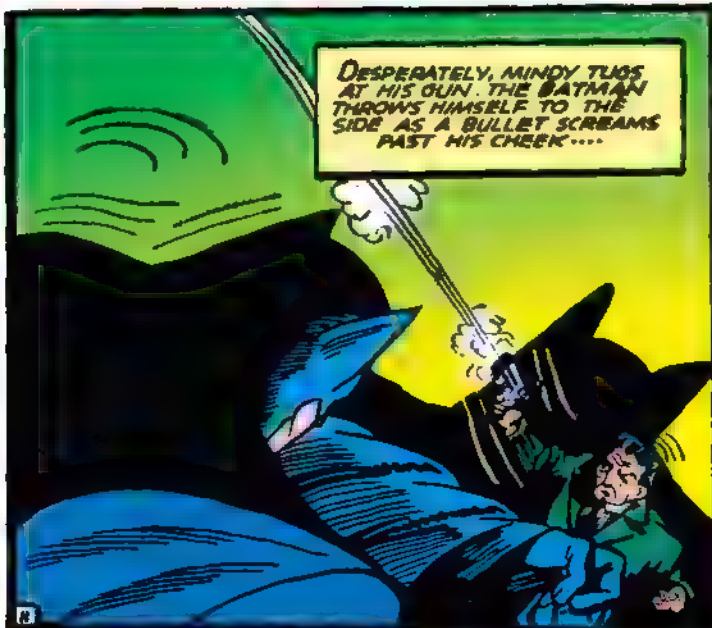
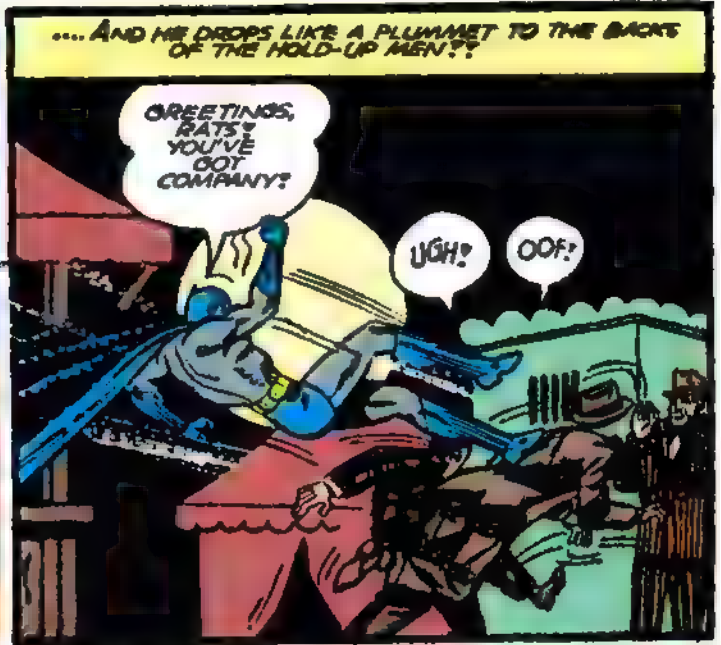
OH--
OH?

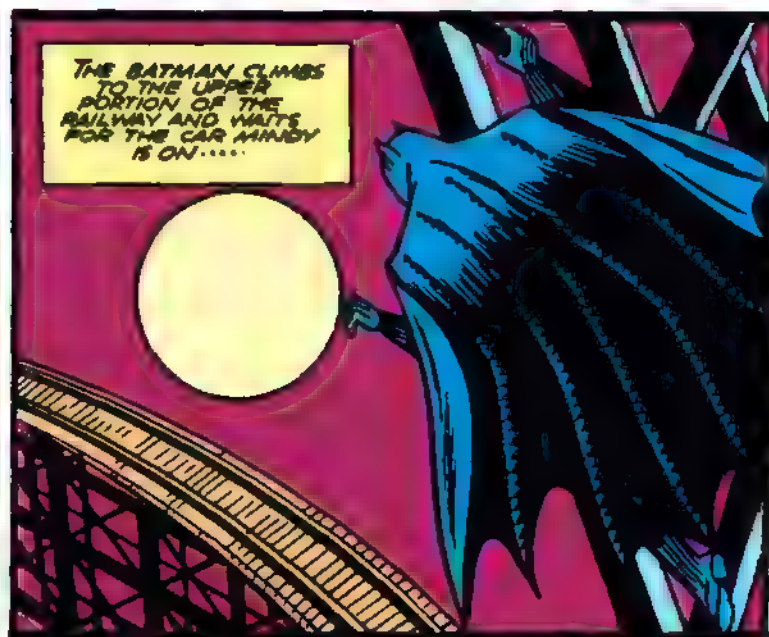
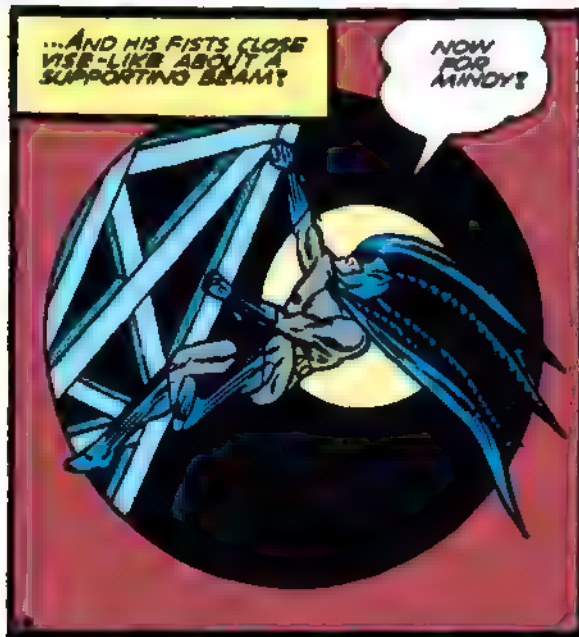
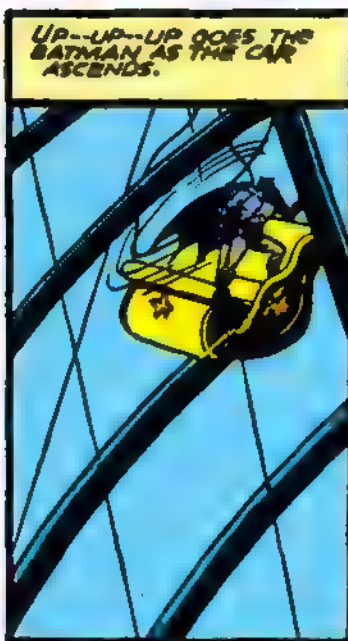
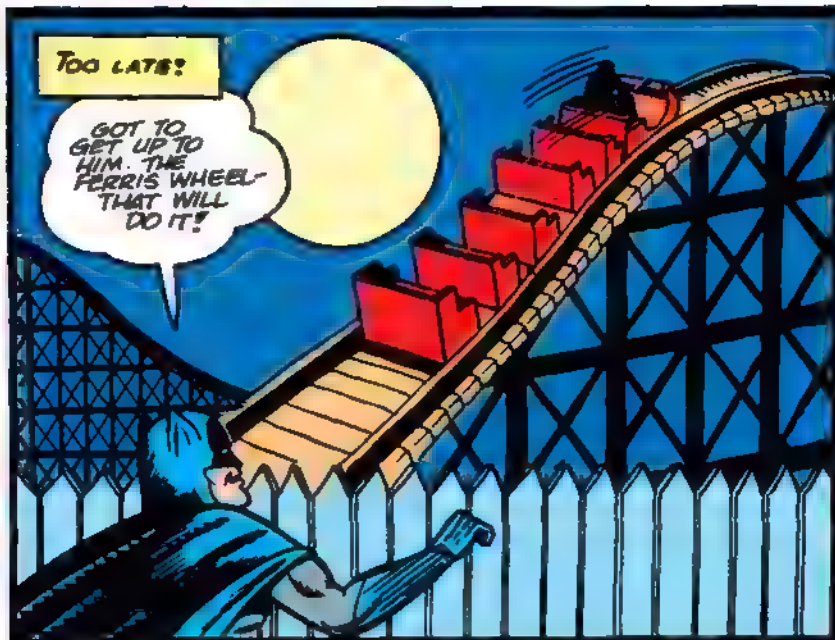
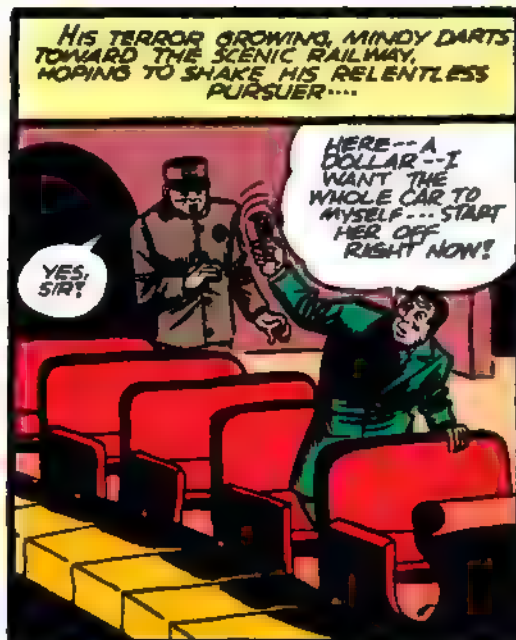


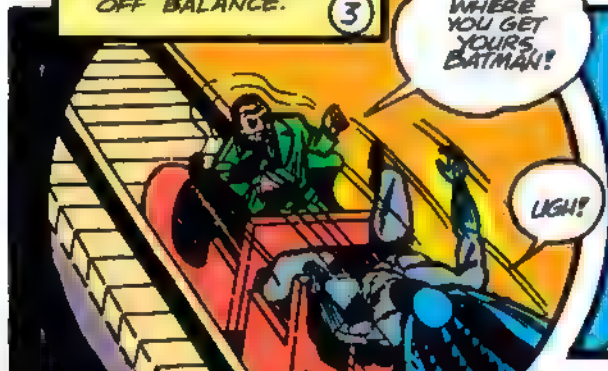














No. 52

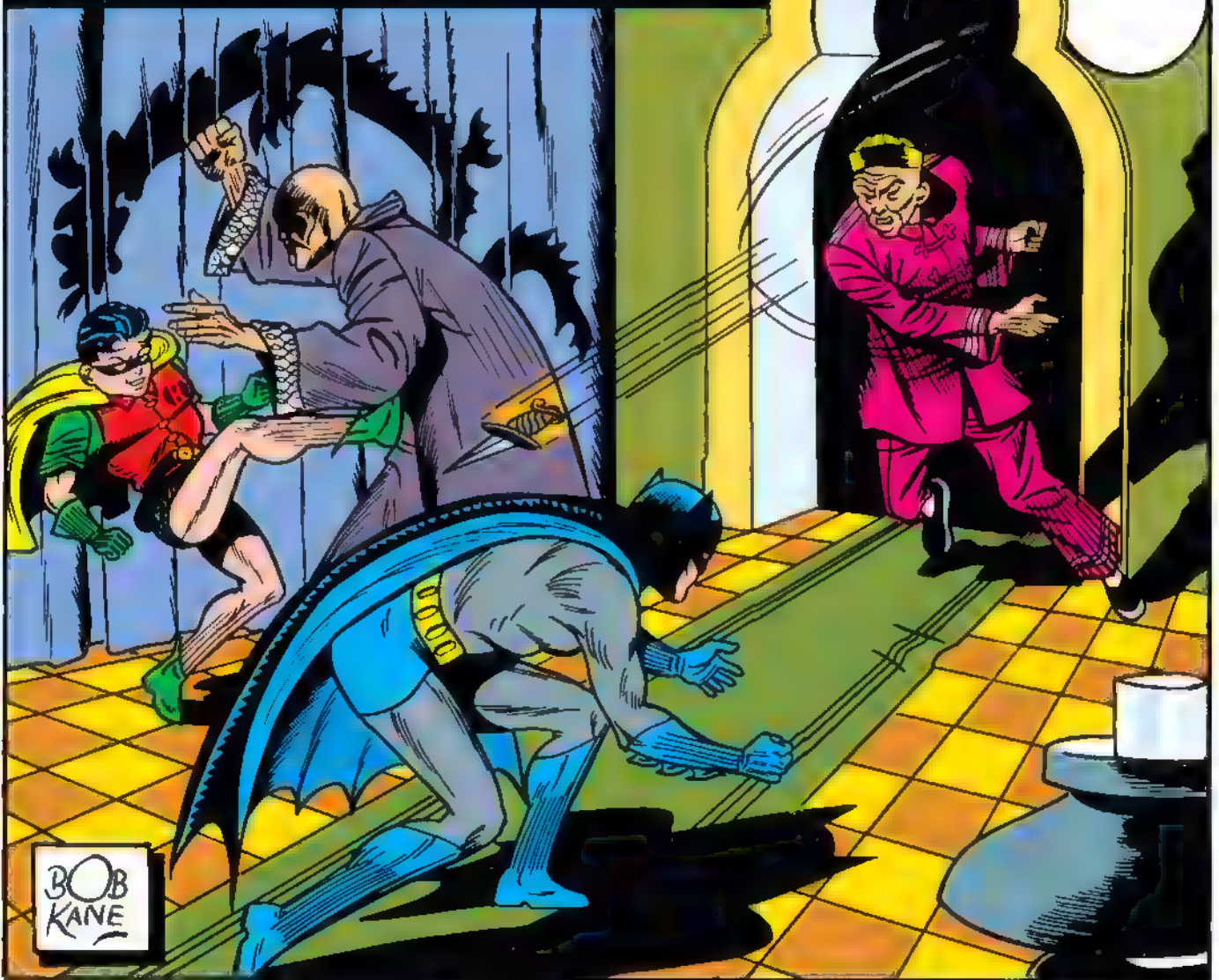


The BATMAN

Detective COMICS

JUNE

REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.



BOB
KANE

BAT MAN

REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.
WITH
Robin
THE BOY WONDER

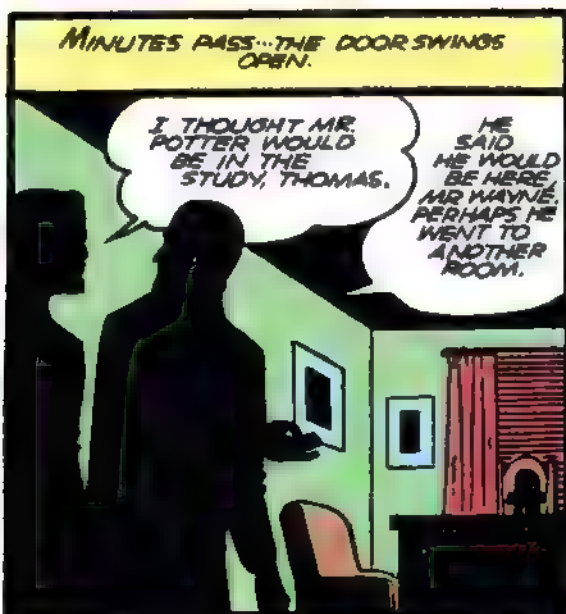
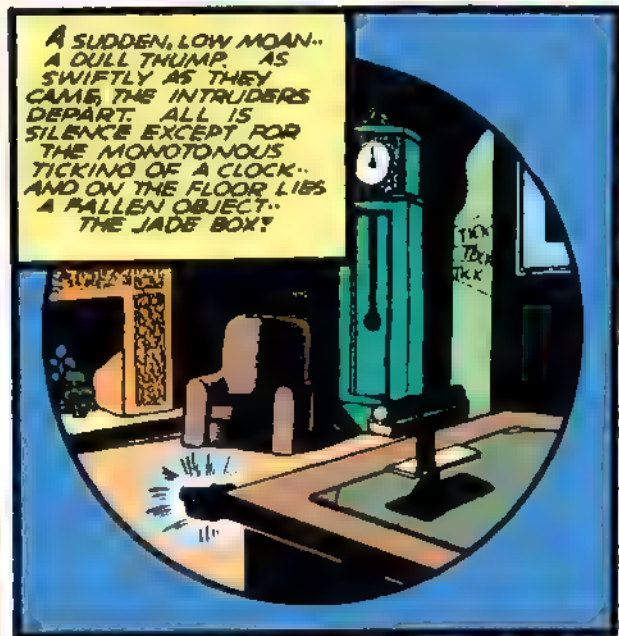
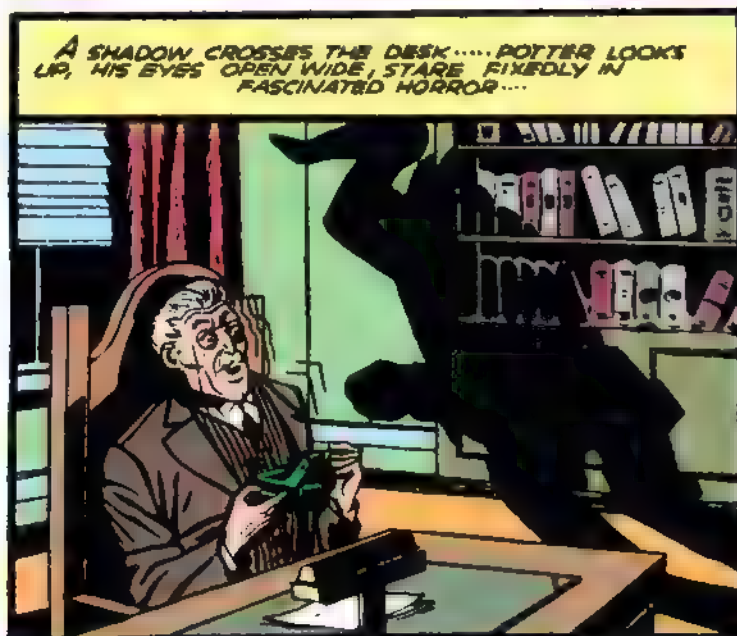
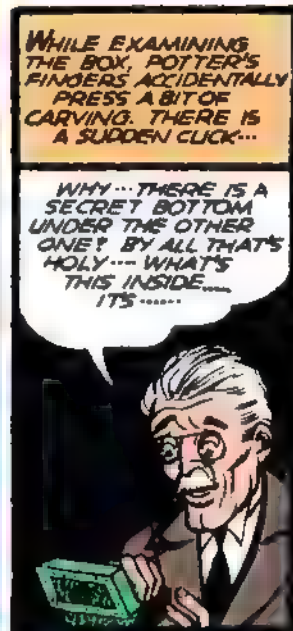
BY
BOB KANE

IT WAS JUST A SMALL BOX OF GREEN JADE, BUT IT CONTAINED SOMETHING MEN WANTED, AND BECAUSE OF IT MEN DIED. IT WAS A PUZZLE, THIS BOX, YET THERE WAS SOMEONE WHO WAS TO SOLVE ITS MYSTERY....SOMEONE WHOSE WAYS WERE EQUALLY AS MYSTERIOUS--SOMEONE WEIRD, A FLITTING CREATURE OF DARKNESS...THAT SOMEONE WAS THE BATMAN! AIDED BY ROBIN THE BOY WONDER, THE BATMAN WAS TO INVESTIGATE AND REVEAL TO ALL WHAT LAY BEHIND "THE SECRET OF THE JADE BOX"

A MAN WALKS INTO A CURIO SHOP, AND OUR TALE BEGINS....

GOOD AFTERNOON, ACHMED. WELL, HAVE YOU ANYTHING NEW TO SELL ME FOR MY JADE COLLECTION?

AH, MR. POTTER, YOU ARE MOST FORTUNATE, FOR I MADE A LARGE PURCHASE THIS VERY MORNING, AND FOUND SOMETHING JUST FOR YOU.



THE POLICE ARE SUMMONED...

NOTHING
STOLEN, THE
MAN HAD NO
ENEMIES, YET
HE WAS
MURDERED?
IT ISN'T
RIGHT?

THE FINGER-
PRINTS ON THE
KNIFE DON'T
CHECK WITH
ANY ON
FILE? IT'S
A TOUGH
ONE?



THIS IS GOING
DOWN ON
THE BOOK AS
"MURDER BY
PERSON OR
PERSONS
UNKNOWN?"

YOU
WON'T
NEED ME
ANY LONGER
SO I'LL BE
TODDLING
ALONG?



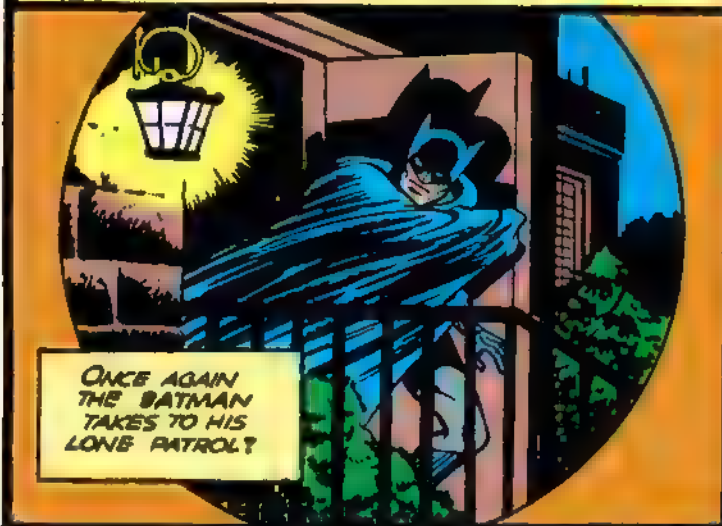
AT HIS HOME, BRUCE
TELLS HIS YOUNG WARD,
DICK GRAYSON, OF THE CASE.

THIS
SORT OF
LOOKS
LIKE A
PERFECT
CRIME, EH,
BRUCE?
NO
CLUES...

AH, BUT
YOU'RE WRONG.
THERE IS A
CLUE, AND
ONLY I AND
THOMAS KNOW
ABOUT IT...
BUT ONLY I
KNOW
IT'S A
CLUE?



A WEIRD, CLOSE-FITTING COSTUME TRANSFORMS
BRUCE WAYNE INTO THE MAN THAT IS THE "EYES
OF NIGHT"...THE BATMAN?



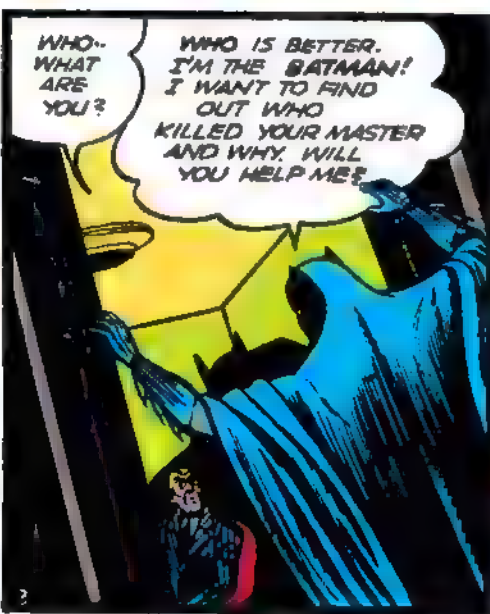
ONCE AGAIN
THE BATMAN
TAKES TO HIS
LONE PATROL?

SOMETIME LATER, HIS TALL, CLOAKED
FIGURE INCHES UP THE VINE THAT CLINGS
OUTSIDE THE POTTER HOME...



WHO...
WHAT
ARE
YOU?

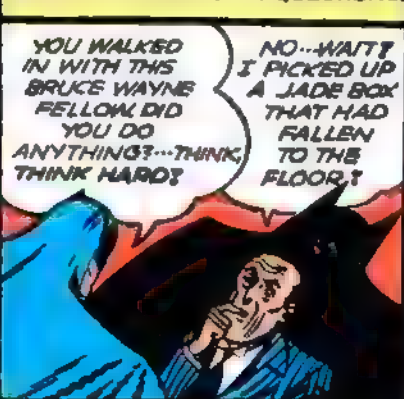
WHO IS BETTER.
I'M THE BATMAN!
I WANT TO FIND
OUT WHO
KILLED YOUR MASTER
AND WHY. WILL
YOU HELP ME?



THOMAS KNOWS OF THE
BATMAN'S REPUTATION AND
READILY ANSWERS HIS QUESTIONS.

YOU WALKED
IN WITH THIS
BRUCE WAYNE
FELLOW, DID
YOU DO
ANYTHING?...THINK,
THINK HARD?

NO...WAIT!
I PICKED UP
A JADE BOX
THAT HAD
FALLEN TO
THE FLOOR?

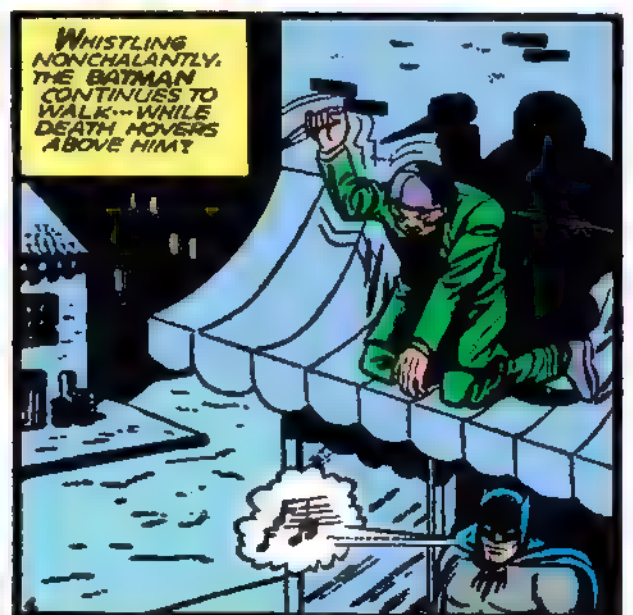
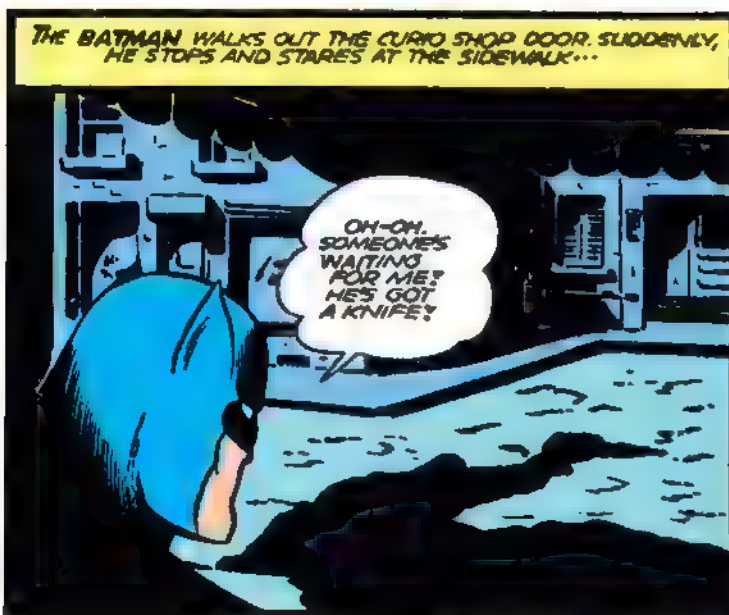
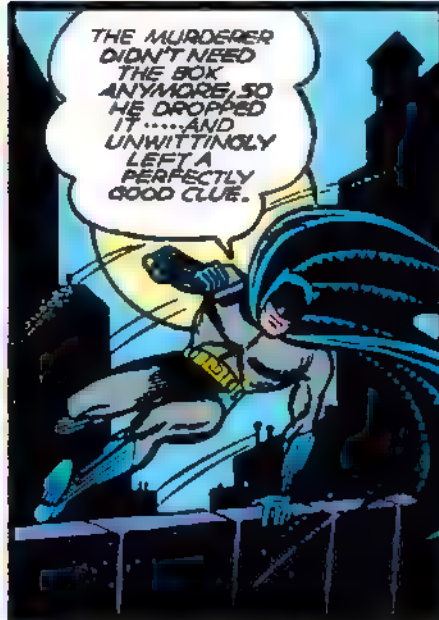
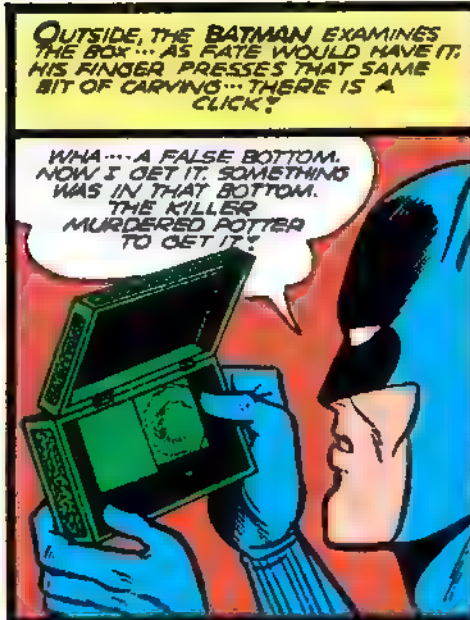


BY ASKING THIS QUESTION, THE
BATMAN HAS REMOVED
ANY POSSIBLE SUSPICION AS TO
HIS REAL IDENTITY...FOR ONLY
HE AND THOMAS KNEW OF THE BOX.

THE
MASTER
HAD ONLY
PURCHASED
IT THIS
MORNING
FROM AHMED,
THE CURIO
DEALER.

THE
POLICE DON'T
KNOW OF
THIS YET...
SO DON'T TELL
THEM. DON'T
TELL THEM
TILL YOU
HEAR FROM
ME?





ABRUPTLY, THE BATMAN WHIPS INTO ACTION!



THE BATMAN DROPS TO THE GROUND AND SWERVES INSTANTLY AS A KNIFE HISSES PAST HIS EAR....



AH--ENTER THE VILLAINS!



UNAMPH!

HYA, PELLAT WHAT'S NEW?

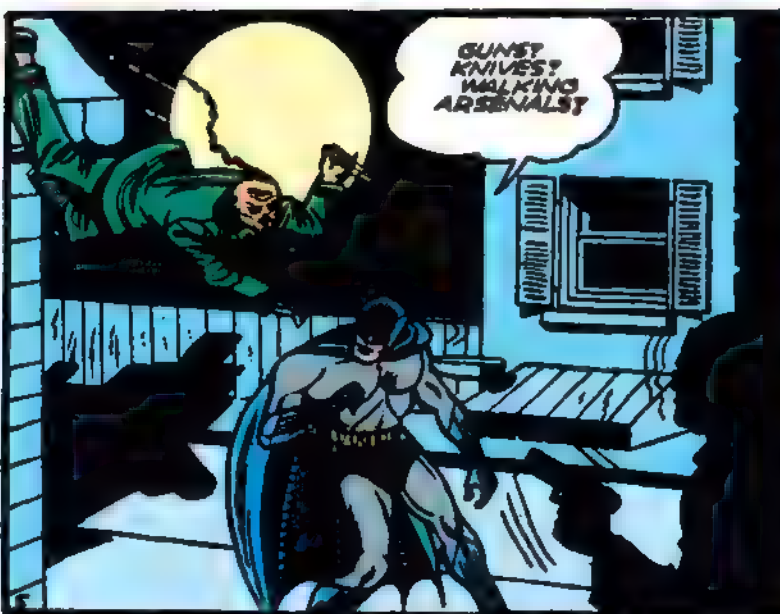


ARE THE STARS OUT TONIGHT?

CRACK!



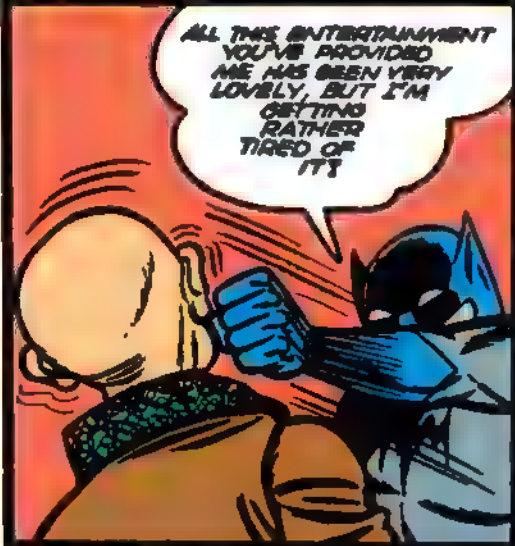
GUNNY KNIVES? WALKING ARSENAL?



THANKS... YOU CAME IN HANDY?



A FIST LIKE A CHUNK OF STEEL SLAMS AGAINST THE ORIENTAL'S JAW!



HEY WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND HERE?

ENTER THE LAW!



THE POLICEMAN GIVES CHASE. HE RACES DOWN A DARK ALLEY... AND SUDDENLY HALTS...

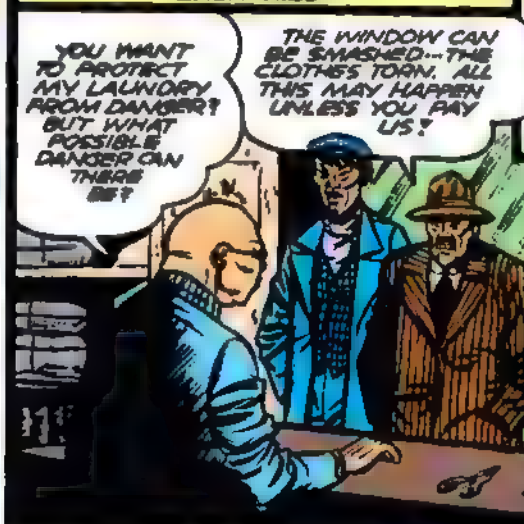


...AND WHEN THE POLICEMAN RACES TO WHERE THE FALLEN ORIENTALS WERE...



THEY'RE GONE, TOO? WONDER WHAT IT WAS ALL ABOUT ANYWAY?

DAYS PASS. THEN, STRANGE THINGS HAPPEN IN THE ORIENTAL QUARTER, IN TEA SHOPS, CHOP SUEY PLACES, LAUNDRIES...



YOU WANT TO PROTECT MY LAUNDRY FROM DANGER? BUT WHAT POSSIBLE DANGER CAN THERE BE?

THE WINDOW CAN BE SMASHED... THE CLOTHES TORN. ALL THIS MAY HAPPEN UNLESS YOU PAY US!

YOU... YOU ARE GANGSTERS? I WILL NOT... WHAT...

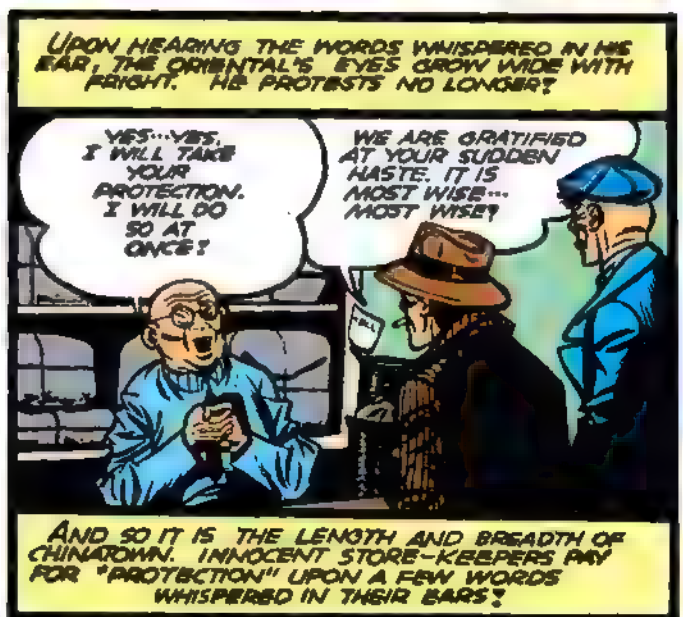
BUZZ...



UPON HEARING THE WORDS WHISPERED IN HIS EAR, THE ORIENTAL'S EYES GROW WIDE WITH FRIGHT. HE PROTESTS NO LONGER!

YES... YES, I WILL TAKE YOUR PROTECTION. I WILL DO SO AT ONCE!

WE ARE GRATIFIED AT YOUR SUDDEN HASTE. IT IS MOST WISE... MOST WISE!



AND SO IT IS THE LENGTH AND BREADTH OF CHINATOWN. INNOCENT STORE-KEEPERS PAY FOR "PROTECTION" UPON A FEW WORDS WHISPERED IN THEIR EARS!

THE SITUATION BECOMES A GRAVE ONE.....SO GRAVE, A COMMITTEE CALLS ON THE HONORABLE UNOFFICIAL MAYOR OF THE ORIENTAL QUARTER.... LOO CHUNG.

MY HUMBLE HOUSE IS GREATLY HONORED BY YOUR PRESENCE. BUT WHAT BUSINESS CAN YOU HAVE WITH CHUNG?

THIS "PROTECTION" WE ARE FORCED TO PAY. WE COME TO YOU WITH A PLAN TO FIGHT THIS MENACE.

THE POLICE CANNOT HELP SO WE MUST TURN TO ONE WHO HAS AIDED US BEFORE.

IT IS HE OF THE DARK CLOTHING AND WINGS OF THE FLYING BAT...HE WHO IS CALLED... BATMAN?

DID I HEAR MY NAME SPOKEN?

IT... IT IS HE... THE BATMAN?

I CAME TO SEE CHUNG ON ANOTHER MATTER, BUT NOW THAT I'M HERE LET'S HAVE THE DETAILS OF THIS "PROTECTION" RACKET.

ONE MUST GO BACK TO 1203 WHEN THE GREAT MONGOL CONQUEROR, GENGHIS KHAN, RULED ALL ASIA.

"HE WAS A CRUEL MAN AND RULED WITH AN IRON HAND.... AND ON THAT HAND WAS A RING?"

THIS IS THE RING OF GENGHIS KHAN. WHEN I DIE, MY SON SHALL WEAR IT AND BECOME A RULER AS SHALL HIS SONS...TO THE END OF TIME?

THE RING.



"LATER, THE KHAN RULE WAS ENDED, BUT STILL MEN FLOCKED TO HIS DESCENDANTS WHO WORE THE RING..."

LISTEN TO ME. THE PEOPLE OF THIS VILLAGE MUST PAY TRIBUTE AS THEY DID TO MY GREAT FOREFATHERS

IS IT TRULY IT SHALL BE SO?

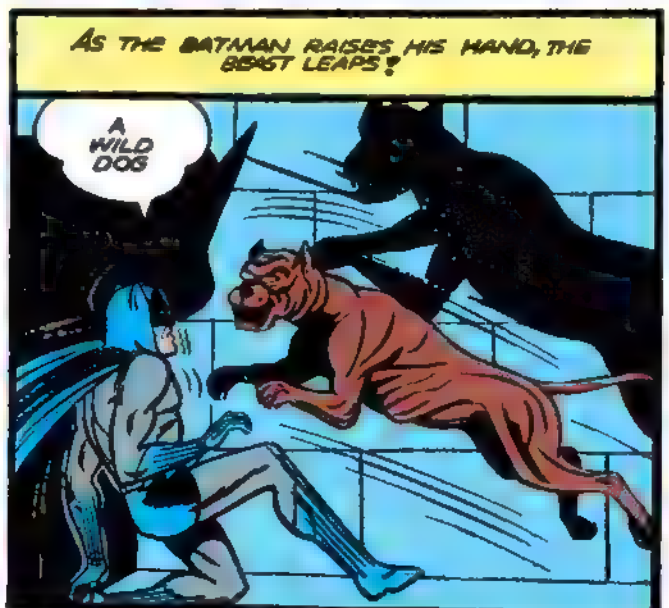
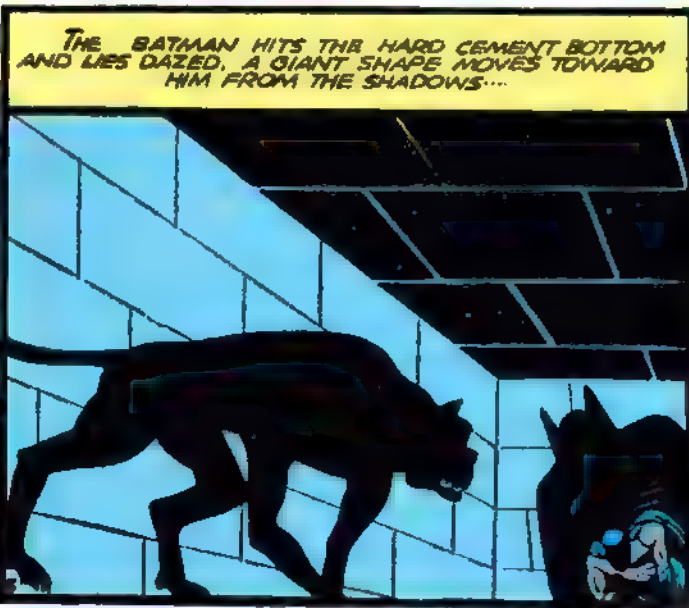
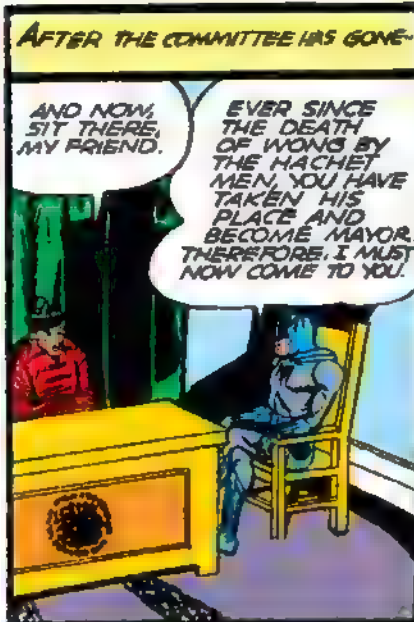
"AND SO DOWN THE AGES A KHAN GATHERED 'ROUND HIM A GROUP OF CUT-THROATS AND BANDITS WHO PLAQUED THE PEOPLE OF SMALL TOWNS?"

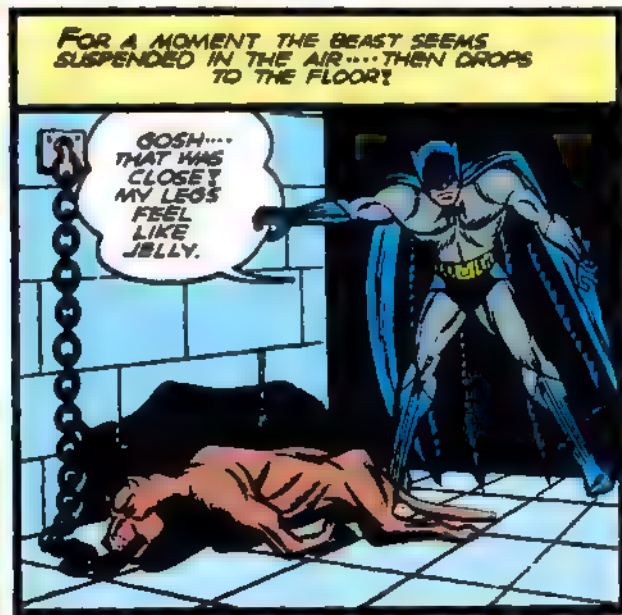
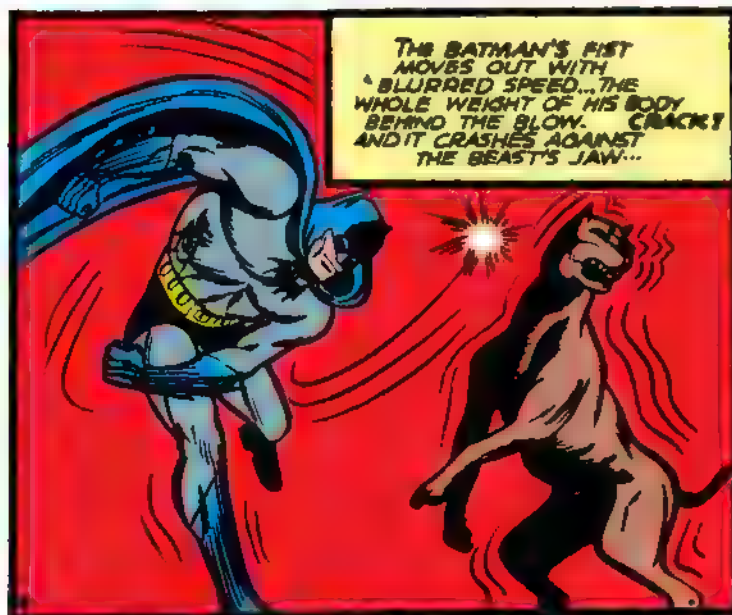
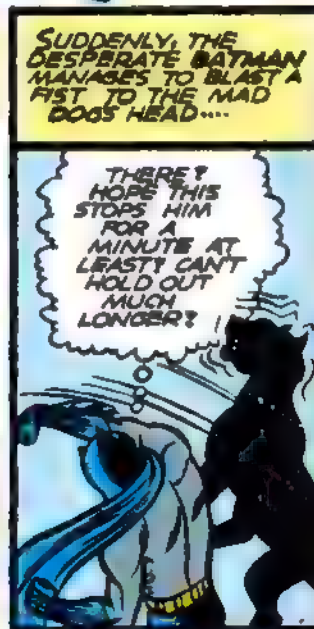


FOR A LONG TIME, OUR PEOPLE HAVE NOT BEEN BOTHERED BY KHAN BANDITS, BUT NOW...

NOW WE HAVE HEARD THAT A KHAN WEARS THE RING HERE IN AMERICA?

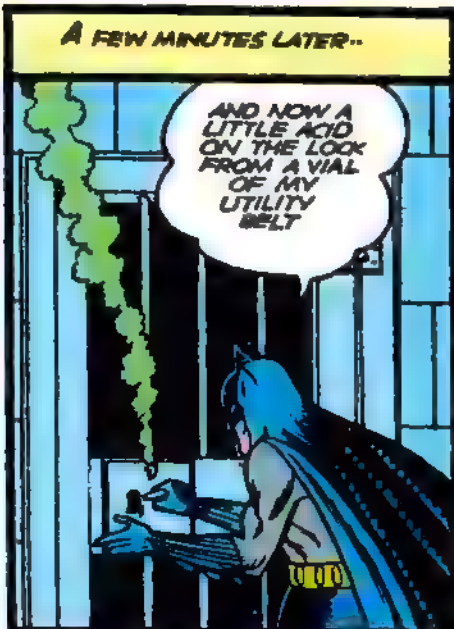
I SEE...A KHAN HAS STARTED THIS "TRIBUTE" RACKET HERE. TIMES HAVEN'T CHANGED MUCH, IT SEEMS?





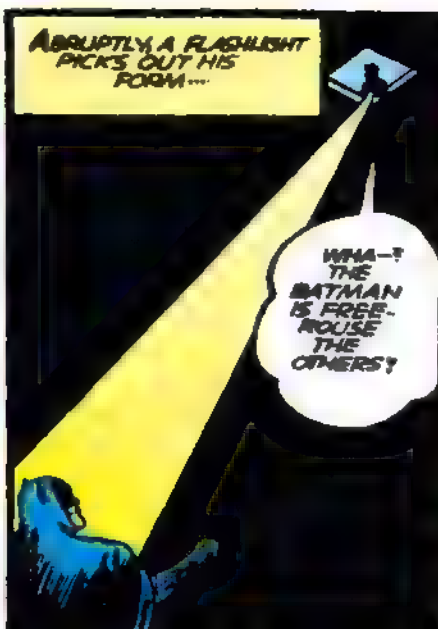
A FEW MINUTES LATER--

AND NOW A
LITTLE ACID
ON THE LOCK
FROM A VIAL
OF MY
UTILITY
BELT

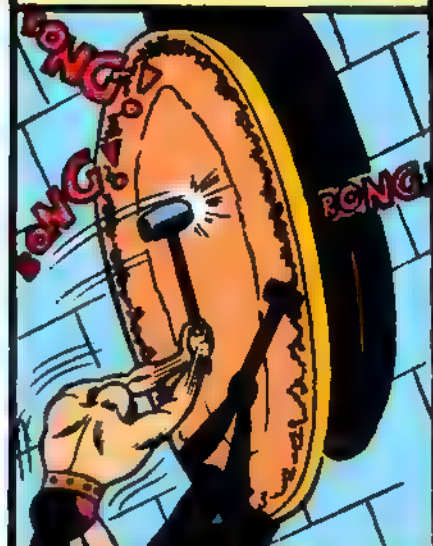


ABRUPTLY, A FLASHLIGHT
PICKS OUT HIS
FORM....

WHA--?
THE
BATMAN
IS FREE--
ROUSE
THE
OTHERS?



A HUGE GONG RESOUNDS TO
SLEDGE-HAMMER BLOWS



AS THE GONG SUMMONS
CHUNG'S MEN, THE
BATMAN RACES DOWN
THE PASSAGE.
SUDDENLY, HE STOPS
AS HE SEES.....

OH-OH?



THE BATMAN'S HANDS SHOOT OUT.....
CLOSES ABOUT THE END OF THE WHIP....
AND HE JERKS HARD?

I'LL
TAKE
THIS, IF
YOU
DON'T
MIND?

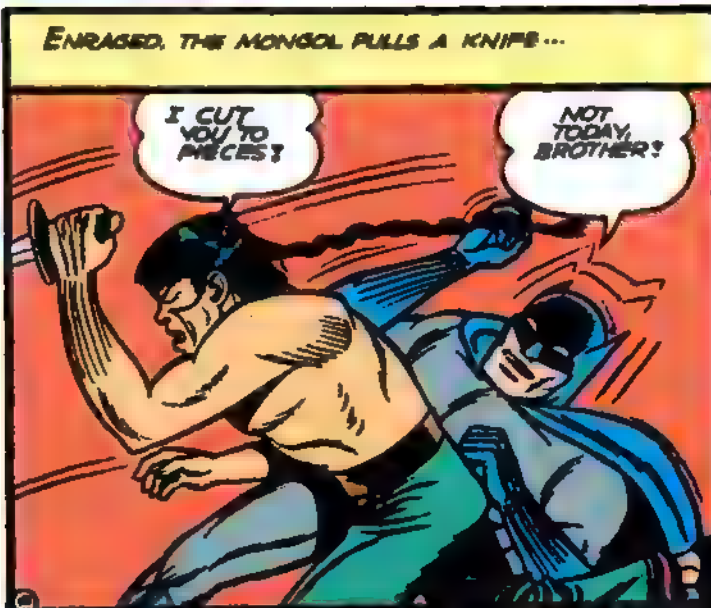
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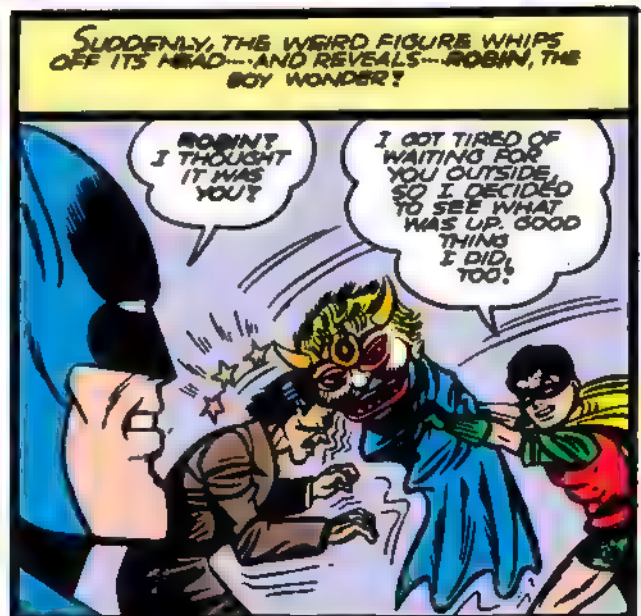


ENRAGED, THE MONGOL PULLS A KNIFE...

I CUT
YOU TO
PIECES?

NOT
TODAY,
BROTHER?





AS HIS MEN FALL BENEATH FLAILING FISTS, CHUNG FLEES IN TERROR...



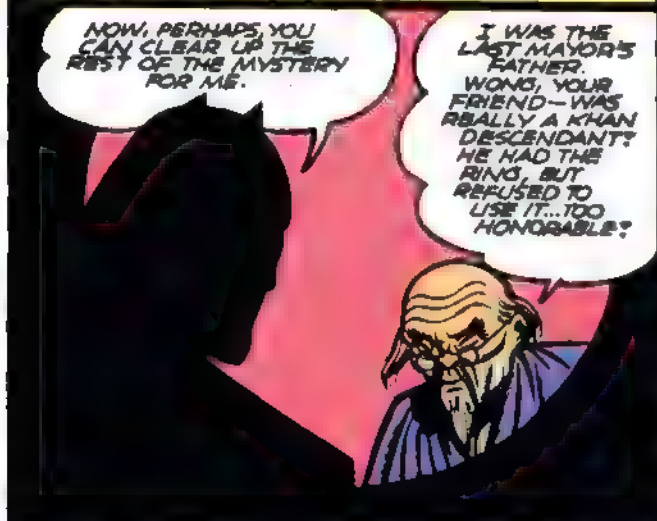
A QUICK FLIP...THE WHIP SNAKES OUT--AND WHIPS AROUND CHUNG'S BODY...



I THOUGHT YOU'D SEE IT MY WAY!



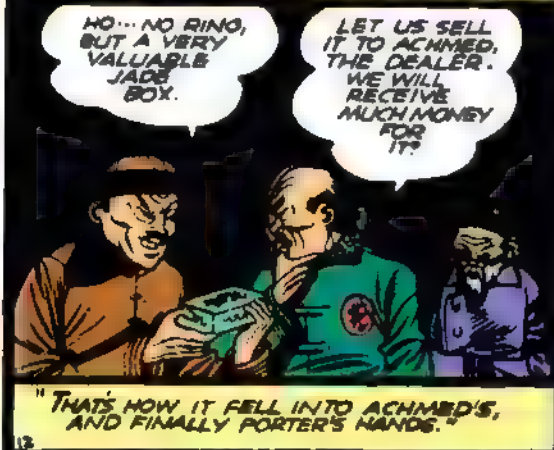
CHUNG'S MEN DISPOSED OF THE BATMAN FREES THE OLD MAN...WHO TELLS HIM WHAT HE KNOWS.



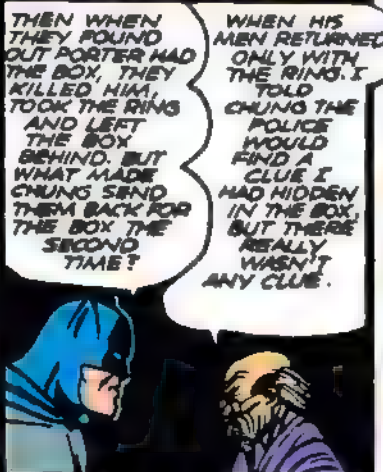
"ONLY HE AND I KNEW OF THE RING, BUT ONE DAY AFTER WONG'S DEATH, CHUNG STUMBLED UPON IT..."



"THAT NIGHT AS HE SLEPT, I STOLE THE RING FROM HIS POCKET AND PLACED IT IN THE BOX WITH THE DOUBLE BOTTOM. IMMEDIATELY, CHUNG KNEW I HAD STOLEN IT...I WAS SEARCHED BY HIS MEN..."



"CHUNG TORTURED ME UNTIL I WAS FORCED TO TELL ALL--HE DISPATCHED HIS MEN TO FIND THE BOX..."



I THOUGHT IF CHUNG SENT THEM BACK A SECOND TIME TO THE SCENE OF THE CRIME THAT THE POLICE OR SOMEONE WOULD SEE THEM.

YES...AND THIS FINISHES THE THREAT OF THE KHAN RING FOR EVER. I'LL DESTROY THE RING! NOW YOUR PEOPLE CAN WALK FREE AGAIN AS ALL MEN SHOULD.





The BATMAN

JULY

Detective COMICS

REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.



WITH
Robin
-THE BOY WONDER-

GLITTERING, IRRESISTIBLE--THAT MET MAGNET WHICH IS
GOTHAM CITY DRAWS TO ITSELF AN ARMY OF MILLIONS
YEARLY FROM EVERY TOWN AND VILLAGE IN AMERICA. THERE
IS NO WITHSTANDING ITS LURE ---FOR HERE IS A CITY WHERE
YOU MAY TOUCH THE CLOUDS ATOP SOME TOMERING SKY-
SCRAPER--OR GO DOWN DEEP IN THE EARTH TO RIDE ABOARD
ITS ROARING SUBWAY TRAINS? TO GOTHAM CITY THEY COME---TO
CARVE THEIR NAMES IN FOOT-HIGH LETTERS ON THE FAMOUS
SIDEWALKS. SOME SUCCEED ---SOME FAIL SOME LEAVE ---
SOME STAY? SOME CURSE THE CITY, OTHERS LOVE IT! BUT
EVERY ONE OF THEM HAS SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT
GOTHAM CITY---FOR NO ONE MAY IGNORE THIS GIGANTIC,
HUMAN ANT HEAP? THIS STORY IS WHAT WE HAVE TO SAY
ABOUT THE CITY. PERHAPS YOU WILL AGREE WITH US---

BRUCE WAYNE, SOCIETY PLAYBOY,
CHATS WITH A FRIEND, JIM
DALY--

YES, BRUCE--
THE CITY IS A
COLD AND HEART-
LESS PLACE.
EVERYBODY
RUSHES ABOUT,
NOT CARING
AT ALL ABOUT
ANYBODY ELSE.

I THINK YOU'RE
WRONG ABOUT
THAT, JIM---AND
I WISH THERE WERE
SOME WAY I COULD
PROVE IT--BUT I
GUESS THE CITY
ITSELF WILL PROVE
IT TO YOU
SOME
DAY.

NIGHT COVERS THE CITY'S WEARY INHABITANTS WITH A BLANKET OF DARKNESS-- BUT FOR BRUCE WAYNE, HIS DAY IS JUST BEGINNING....

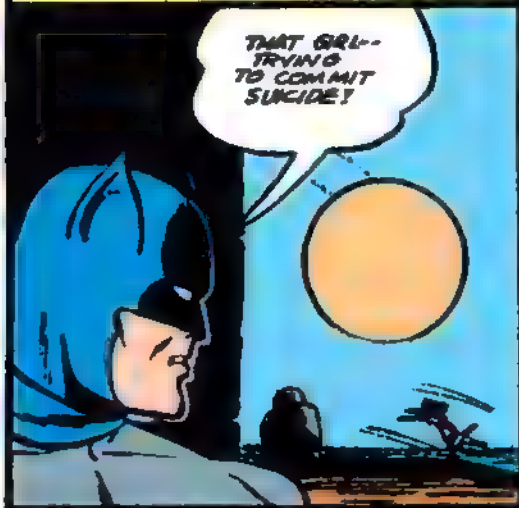


FOR HIM, IN REALITY, IS THAT PERSONALITY KNOWN AS THE "EYES OF NIGHT".....THE BATMAN?

OUT IN THE NIGHT RACES THE FIGURE OF THE BATMAN--THE WAITING DARKNESS SWALLOWS HIM?

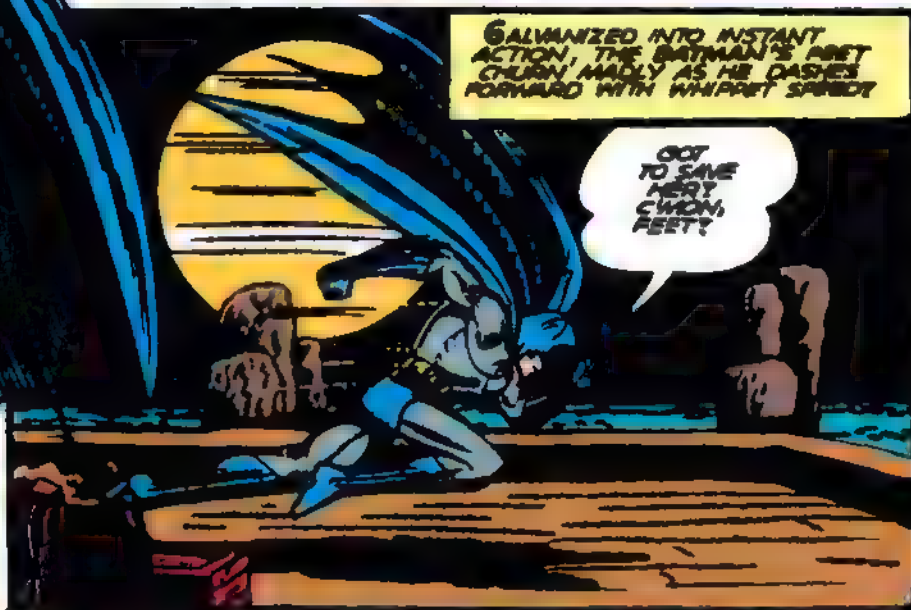


HE PATROLS HIS FAVORITE HAUNT-- THE WATERFRONT. SUDDENLY, HE SEES....

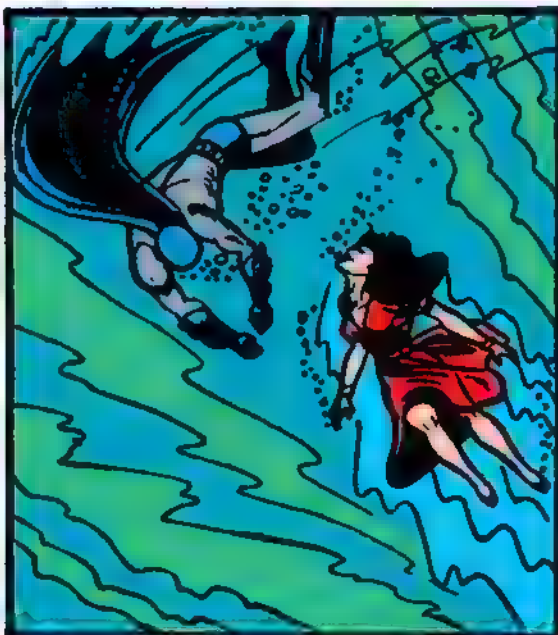
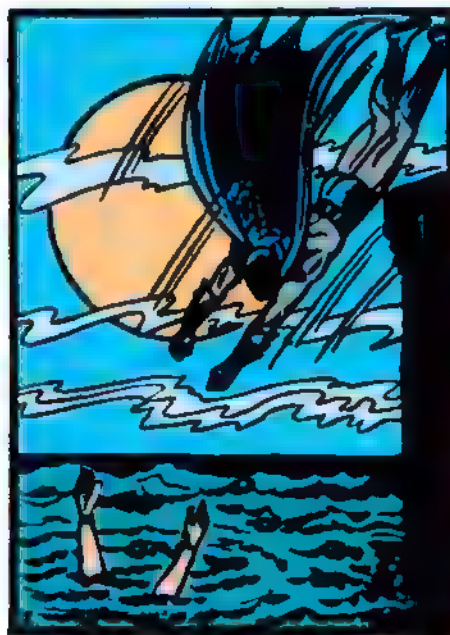


THAT GIRL-- TRYING TO COMMIT SUICIDE!

GALVANIZED INTO INSTANT ACTION, THE BATMAN'S FEET CHURN MADLY AS HE DASHES FORWARD WITH WHIRPET SPEED

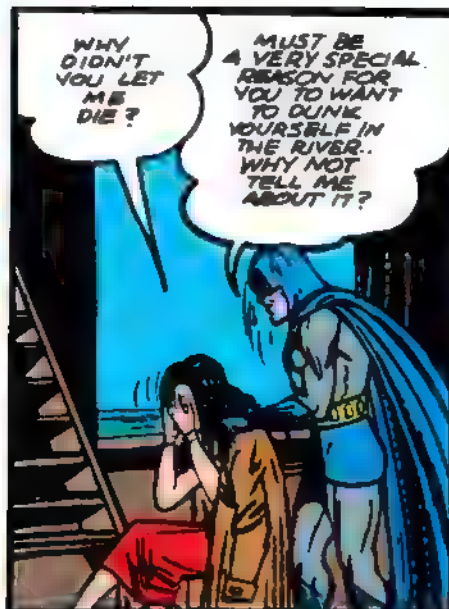
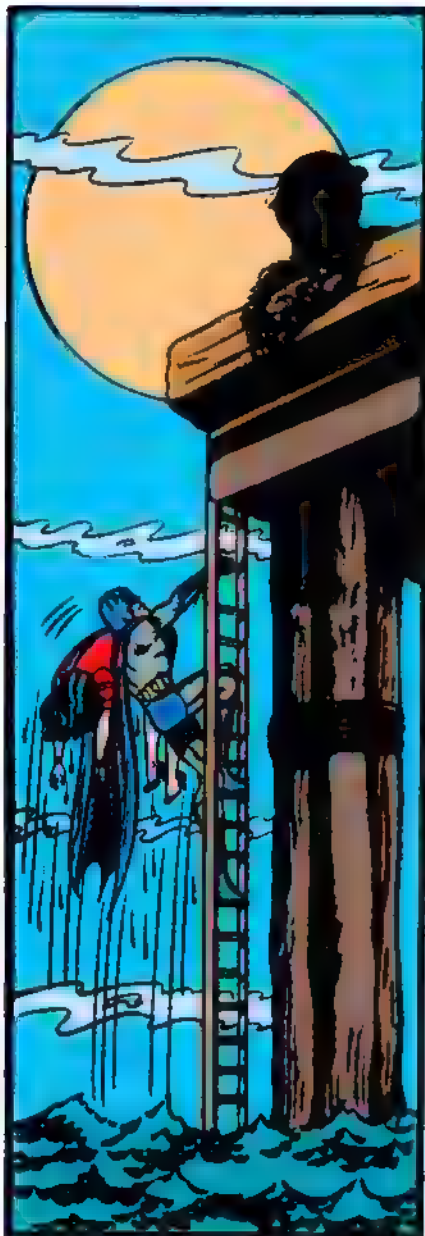


OOT TO SAVE HER! CHURN, FEET!



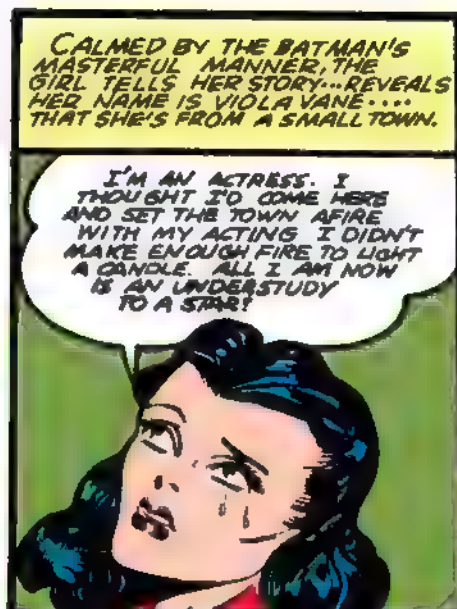
FIRMLY GRIPPING THE WOULD-BE SUICIDE, HE SWIMS TO THE PIER--





WHY DIDN'T YOU LET ME DIE?

MUST BE A VERY SPECIAL REASON FOR YOU TO WANT TO DUNK YOURSELF IN THE RIVER.. WHY NOT TELL ME ABOUT IT?



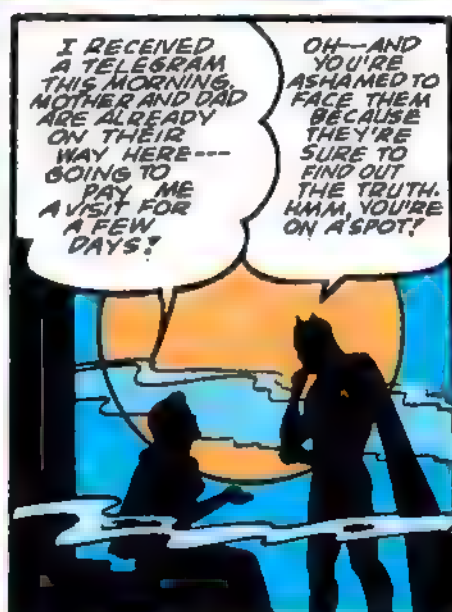
CALMED BY THE BATMAN'S MASTERFUL MANNER, THE GIRL TELLS HER STORY... REVEALS HER NAME IS VIOLA VANE.... THAT SHE'S FROM A SMALL TOWN.

I'M AN ACTRESS. I THOUGHT TO COME HERE AND SET THE TOWN AFIRE WITH MY ACTING. I DIDN'T MAKE ENOUGH FIRE TO LIGHT A CANDLE. ALL I AM NOW IS AN UNDERSTUDY TO A STAR!



MY MOTHER AND DAD DON'T KNOW THAT. I-I KEPT SENDING THEM LETTERS SAYING I WAS A GREAT STAGE STAR AND THEY BELIEVED ME!

THAT'S NO REASON TO COMMIT SUICIDE -



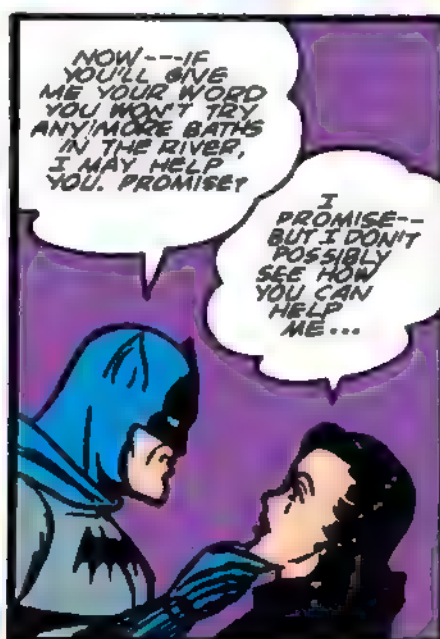
I RECEIVED A TELEGRAM THIS MORNING. MOTHER AND DAD ARE ALREADY ON THEIR WAY HERE--- GOING TO PAY ME A VISIT FOR A FEW DAYS!

OH--AND YOU'RE ASHAMED TO FACE THEM BECAUSE THEY'RE SURE TO FIND OUT THE TRUTH. HMM, YOU'RE ON A SPOT!



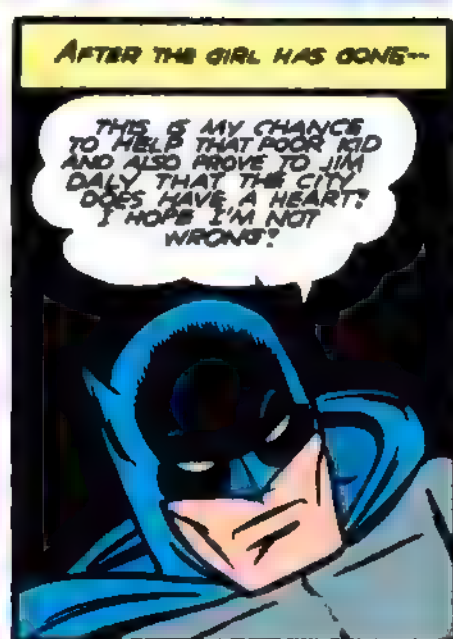
IT WOULD BREAK THEIR HEARTS. I CAN'T FACE THEM. I JUST CAN'T!

PERHAPS IT ISN'T AS BAD AS ALL THAT...



NOW---IF YOU'LL GIVE ME YOUR WORD YOU WON'T TRY ANYMORE BATHS IN THE RIVER, I MAY HELP YOU. PROMISE?

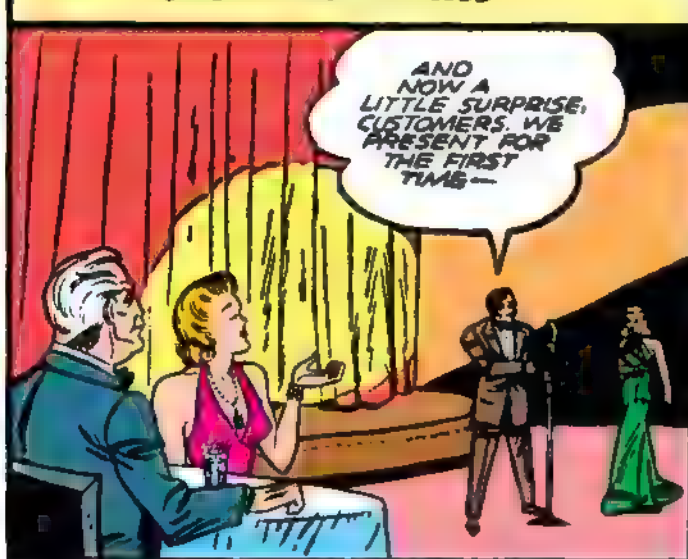
I PROMISE-- BUT I DON'T POSSIBLY SEE HOW YOU CAN HELP ME...



AFTER THE GIRL HAS GONE--

THIS IS MY CHANCE TO HELP THAT POOR KID AND ALSO PROVE TO HIM DAILY THAT THE CITY DOES HAVE A HEART! I HOPE I'M NOT WRONG!

LATER IN THE NIGHTCLUB--



AND NOW A LITTLE SURPRISE, CUSTOMERS. WE PRESENT FOR THE FIRST TIME--

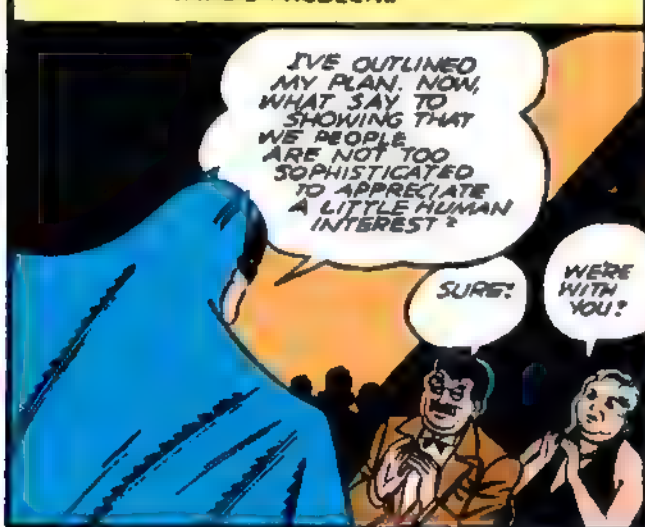


THANKS FOR THE INTRODUCTION! I REALLY DIDN'T EXPECT IT!

LOOK! THE BATMAN!

DON'T TELL ME HE'S PART OF THE FLOOR SHOW.

THE BATMAN QUICKLY QUIETS THE PEOPLE AND TELLS THEM OF VIOLA VANE'S PROBLEM.



I'VE OUTLINED MY PLAN. NOW, WHAT SAY TO SHOWING THAT WE PEOPLE ARE NOT TOO SOPHISTICATED TO APPRECIATE A LITTLE HUMAN INTEREST?

SURE?

WERE WITH YOU?



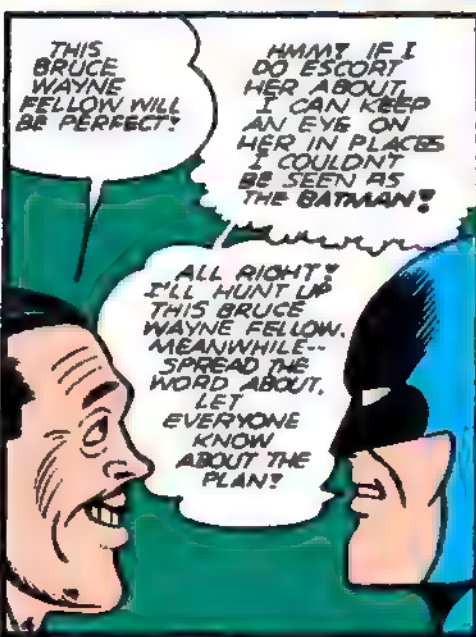
THE GIRL WILL NEED AN ESCORT, SOMEONE HANDSOME, WEALTHY, AND GOOD-NATURED ENOUGH TO PLAY ALONG WITH OUR PLAN.

I KNOW JUST THE FELLOW! HE'S A BIT LAZY, BUT WEALTHY AND GOOD LOOKING.



HIS NAME IS BRUCE WAYNE

GULP-- THAT'S ME!



THIS BRUCE WAYNE FELLOW WILL BE PERFECT!

HMM? IF I DO ESCORT HER ABOUT I CAN KEEP AN EYE ON HER IN PLACES I COULDN'T BE SEEN AS THE BATMAN?

ALL RIGHT! I'LL HUNT UP THIS BRUCE WAYNE FELLOW. MEANWHILE-- SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT, LET EVERYONE KNOW ABOUT THE PLAN!

THE BATMAN GOES FROM NIGHTSPOT TO NIGHTSPOT TELLING EVERYONE OF VIOLA VANE. THEN HE CALLS ON THE RADIO NETWORKS.

THE WHOLE TOWN WILL SOON KNOW ABOUT IT, BUT IF YOU BROADCAST IT ON THE RADIO, THE GIRL'S PARENTS MIGHT HEAR IT AND--

I UNDERSTAND YOU MAY REST ASSURED WE WILL NOT BROADCAST ANYTHING PERTAINING TO THE GIRL.



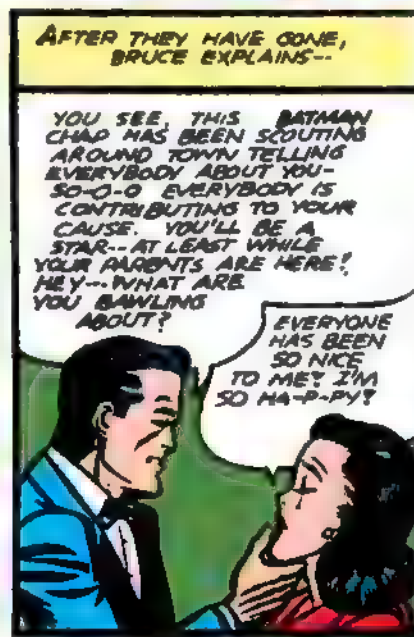
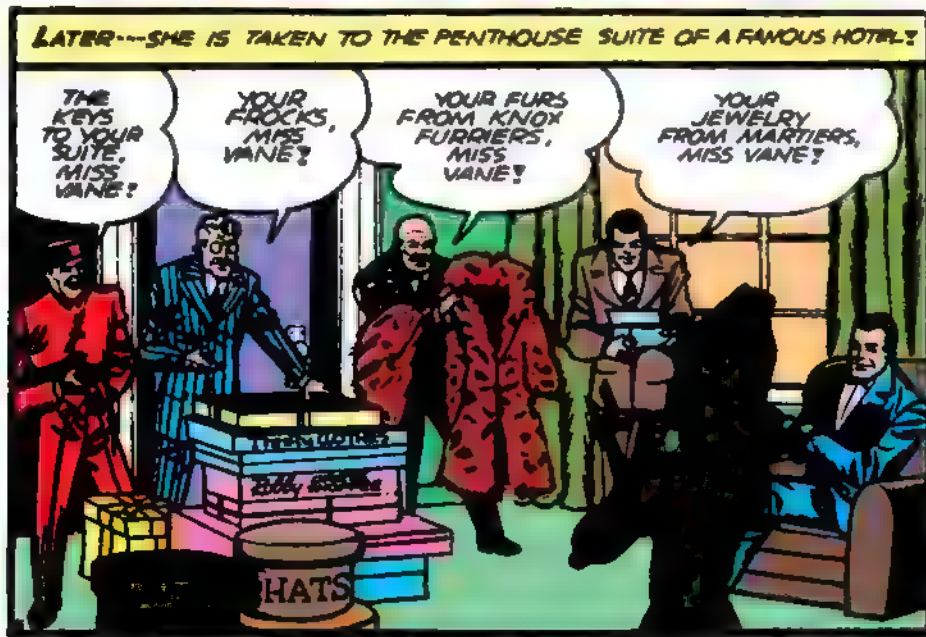
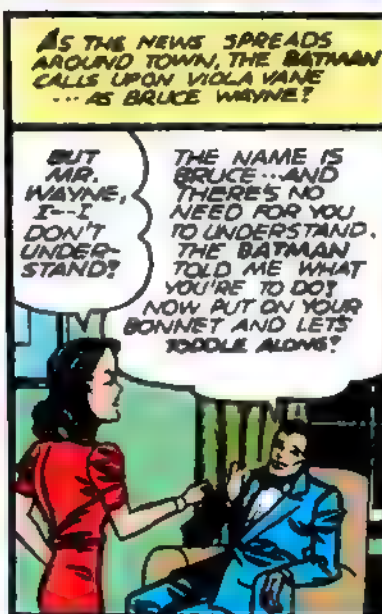
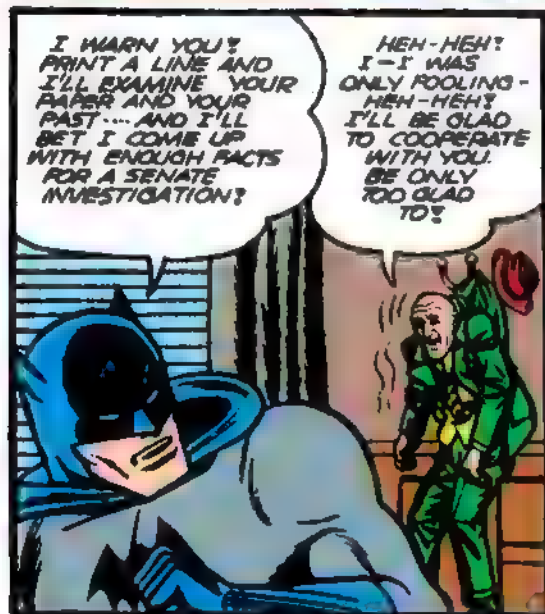
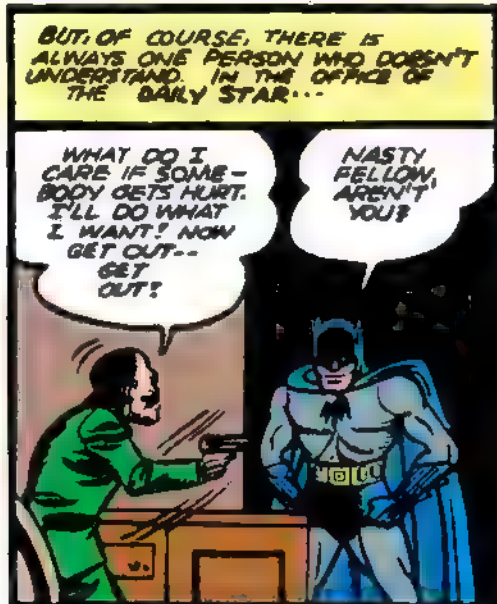
THE BATMAN VISITS THE NEWSPAPERS---

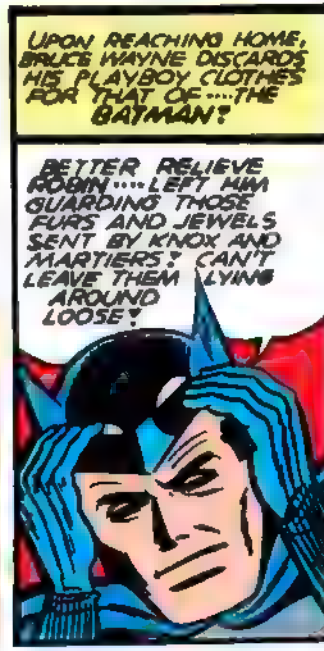
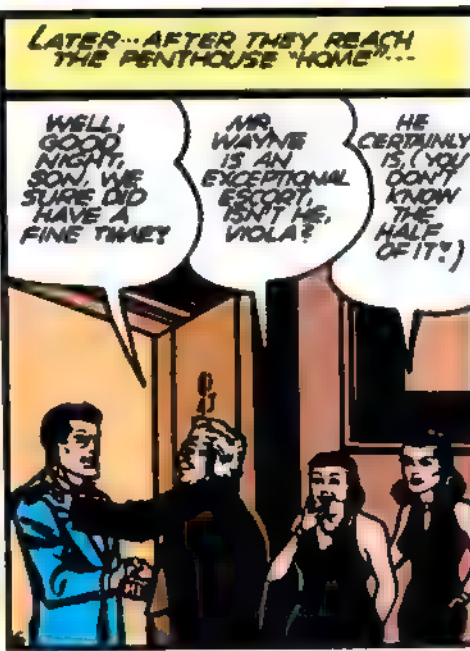
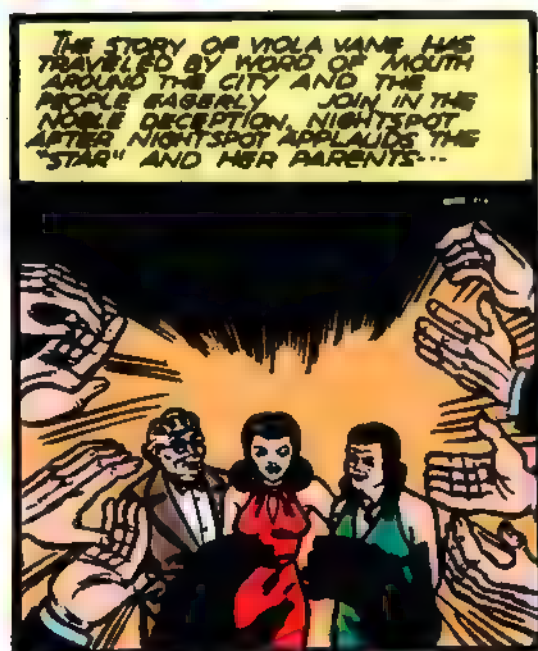
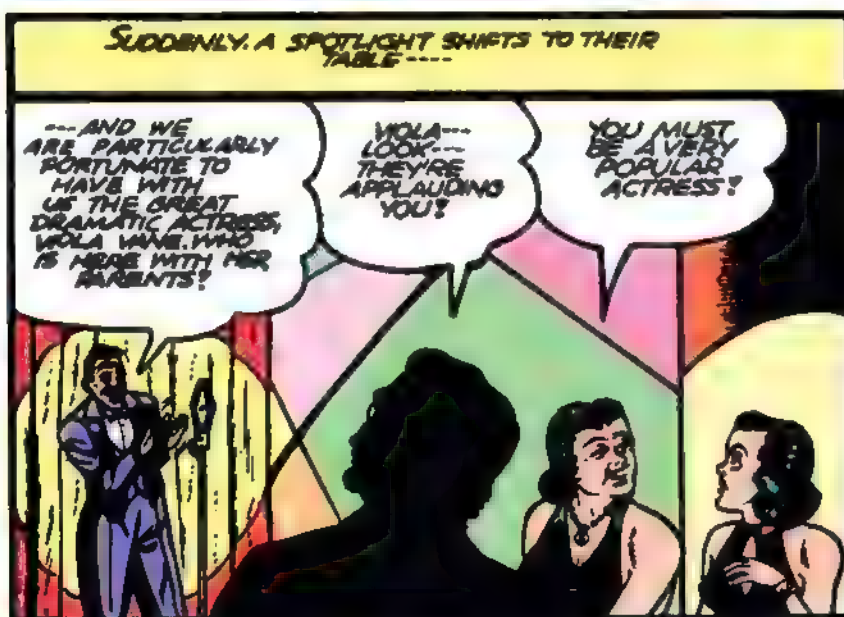
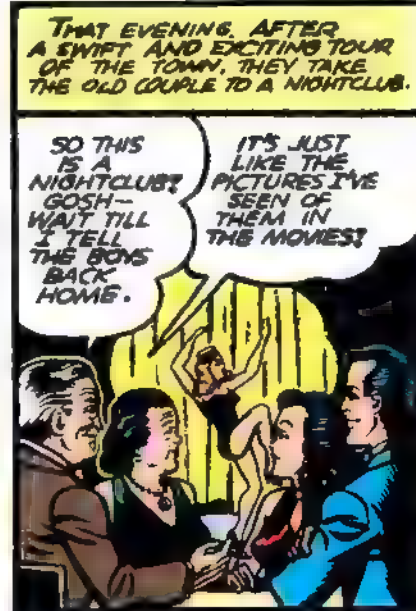
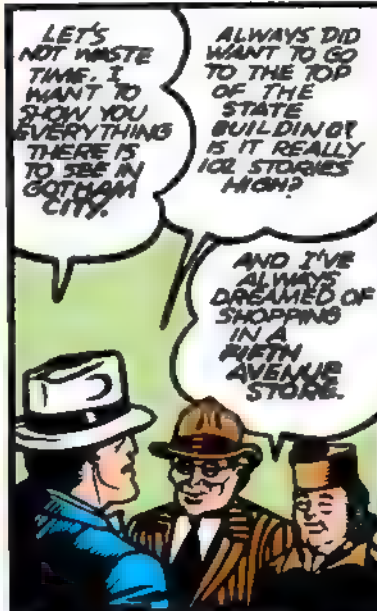
NOW IF YOU SHOULD WRITE THE STORY IN THE PAPERS, THE GIRL'S PARENTS MIGHT READ IT AND--YOU CAN GUESS THE REST!

MACK, IF ANY REPORTER BRINGS IN THE STORY ABOUT VIOLA VANE, KILL IT. THIS IS ONE STORY WE'RE NOT PRINTING!

RIGHT, MR. ROBINSON.







1 THE BATMAN HAS GOOD CAUSE TO WORRY, FOR AT THAT VERY MOMENT----

GET THE SETUP, BOYS? THIS, VIOLA VANE DAME HAS SOME FURS AND JEWELRY GIVEN HER TO USE WHILE HER OLD FOLKS ARE HERE!

YEAH--AN' WE GO UP TO DE PENTHOUSE AND TAKE 'EM--

DAT PENTHOUSE OUGHTA BE A QNCH WHAT WITH DAT OTHER CONSTRUCTION JOB BEIN' PUT UP HEAR IT?



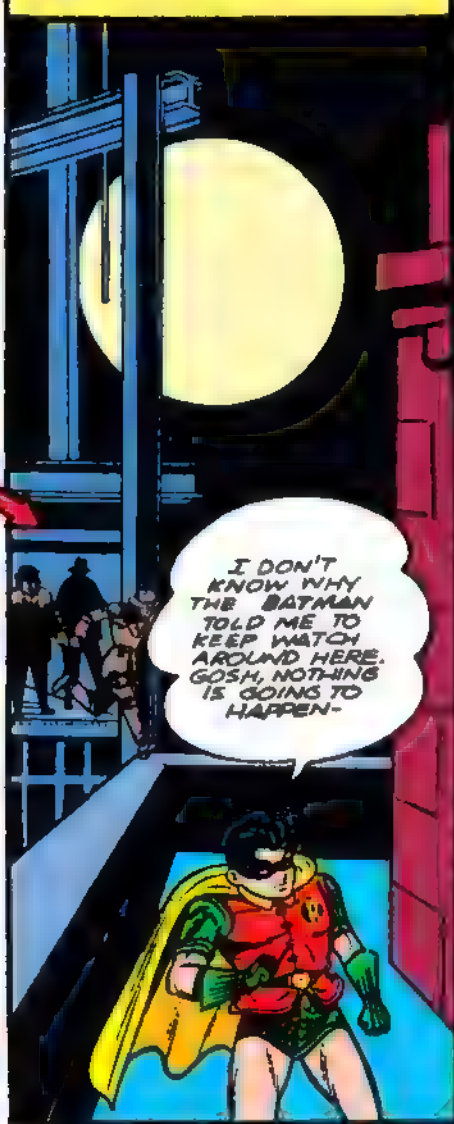
2 DE BATMAN THOUGHT UP THE IDEA FOR DIS VANE DAMES ACT, EH, TOOTHY?

YEAH--AND AFTER WE TAKE THE STUFF, HE'LL HAVE TA TAKE THE BLAME FOR THE ROBBERY, TOO! HAW HAW!

MAYBE DE COPS WILL THINK HE PULLED DIS JOB HIMSELF AINT DAT A LAUGH? HAW!



3 A SHORT TIME AFTER--- UNKNOWN TO VIOLA VANE, ROBIN SECRETLY PATROLS THE PENTHOUSE WALK.



I DON'T KNOW WHY THE BATMAN TOLD ME TO KEEP WATCH AROUND HERE. GOSH, NOTHING IS GOING TO HAPPEN--

4 BUT SOMETHING DOES HAPPEN----- AND FAST!



5 THE GUNBUTT AND BLACK-NESS SWOOP DOWN ON ROBIN!

THERE-- THAT SHOULD HOLD YOU!



SAY--- THAT'S THE ROBIN KID THAT HELPS THE BATMAN. BETTER LET ME PLUG 'IM, TOOTHY.

YEAH-- AND BRING EVERY COP IN THE CITY UP HERE! C'MON-- LET'S GET THE STUFF AND SCRAM!

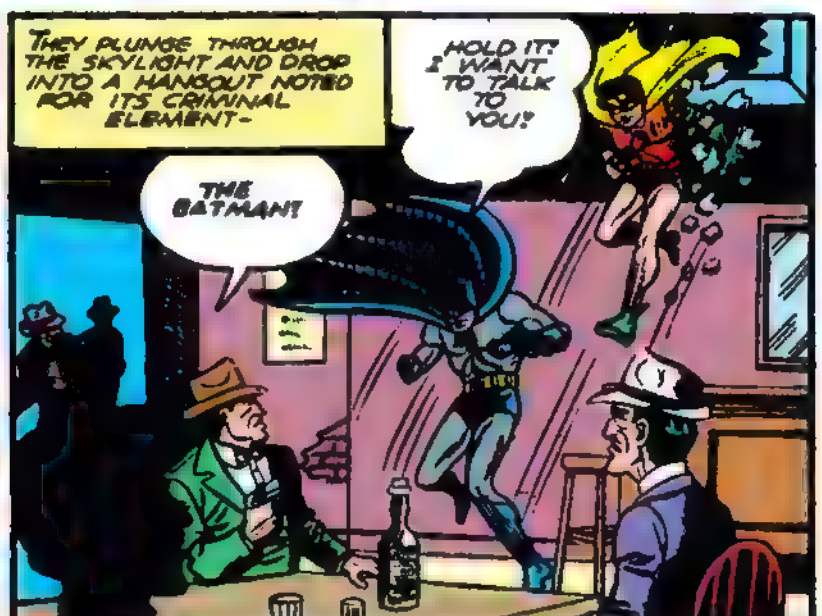
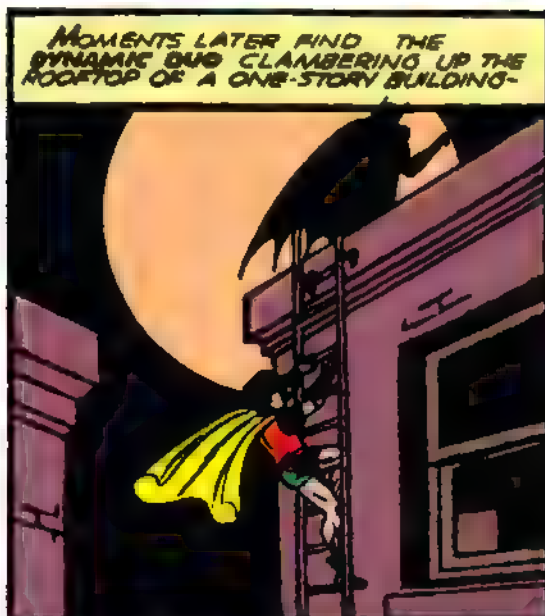


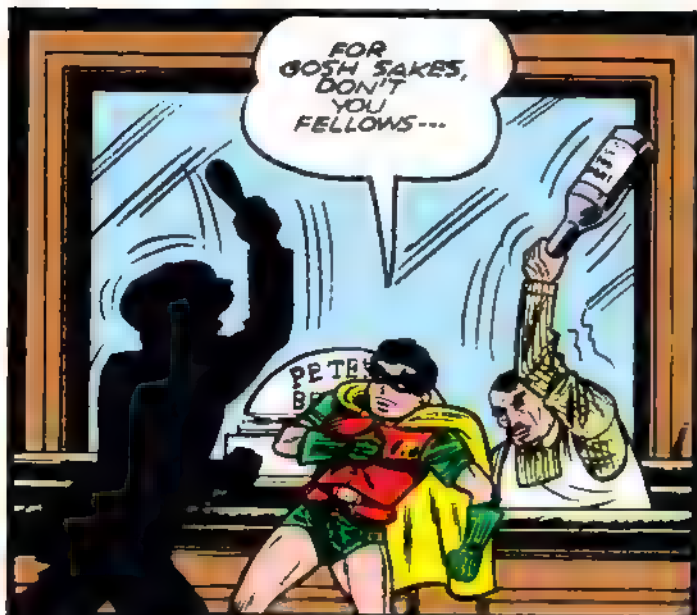
6 MOMENTS PASS. THE CURTAIN OF DARKNESS LIFTS FROM ROBIN'S EYES. A COWLED FIGURE SHAKES HIM...THE BATMAN!

ROBIN? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? WHAT HAPPENED?

FEELS LIKE THE BUILDING FELL ON ME---WHA-- BATMAN--THREE GUYS--- ONE CLUBBED ME---



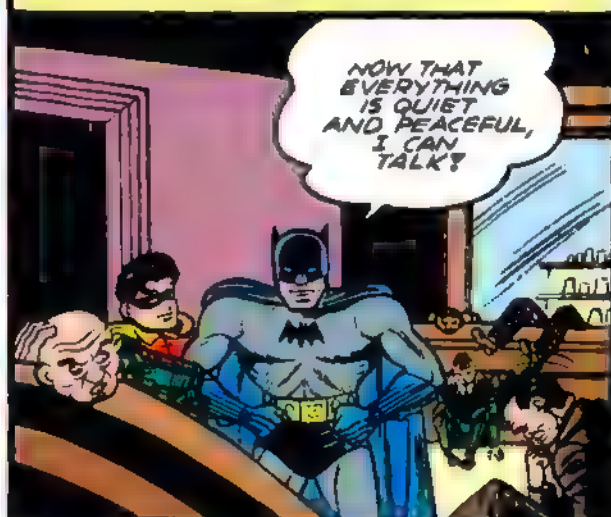




THE BATMAN FIGHTS WITH THE WILD FURY OF AN UNLEASHED TORNADO!



AFTER A FEW MOMENTS OF THE BATMAN AND ROBIN, THE CRIMINALS ARE ONLY TOO ANXIOUS TO LISTEN--



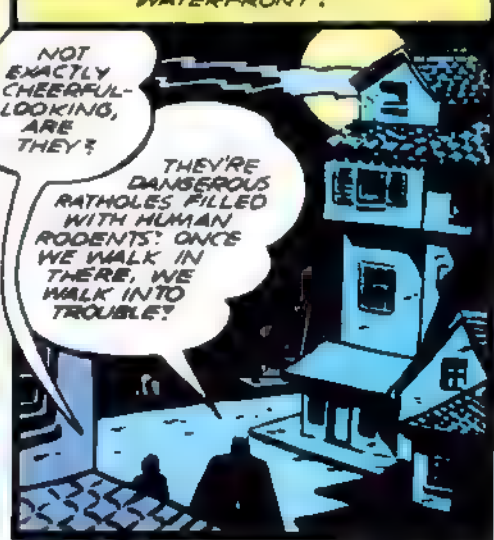
THE BATMAN TELLS OF TOOTHY'S LOOTING OF THE VIOLA VANE PENTHOUSE--

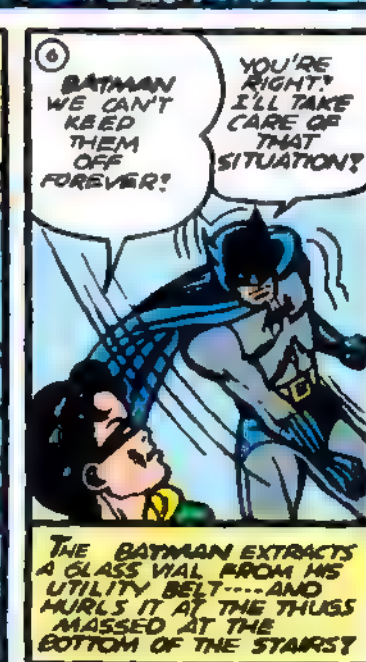
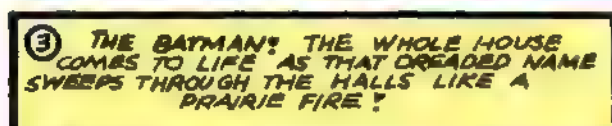
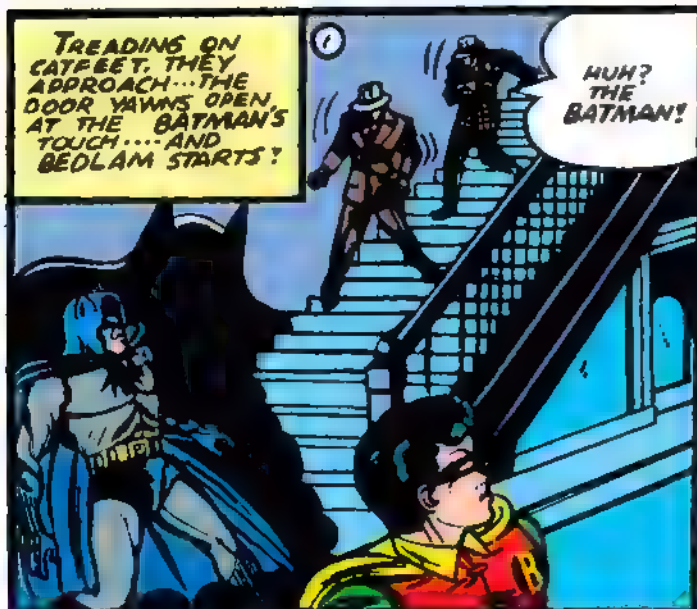


SEEING HE CAN'T SECURE ANY INFORMATION, THE BATMAN LEAVES, AS HE DOES SO A FUGITIVE FIGURE SIDLES UP TO HIM---



THE SHACKS? A CROOKED ROW OF WEATHER-BEATEN OLD HOUSES THAT SERVE AS A CRIMINAL HIDEOUT ON THE EDGE OF THE WATERFRONT?





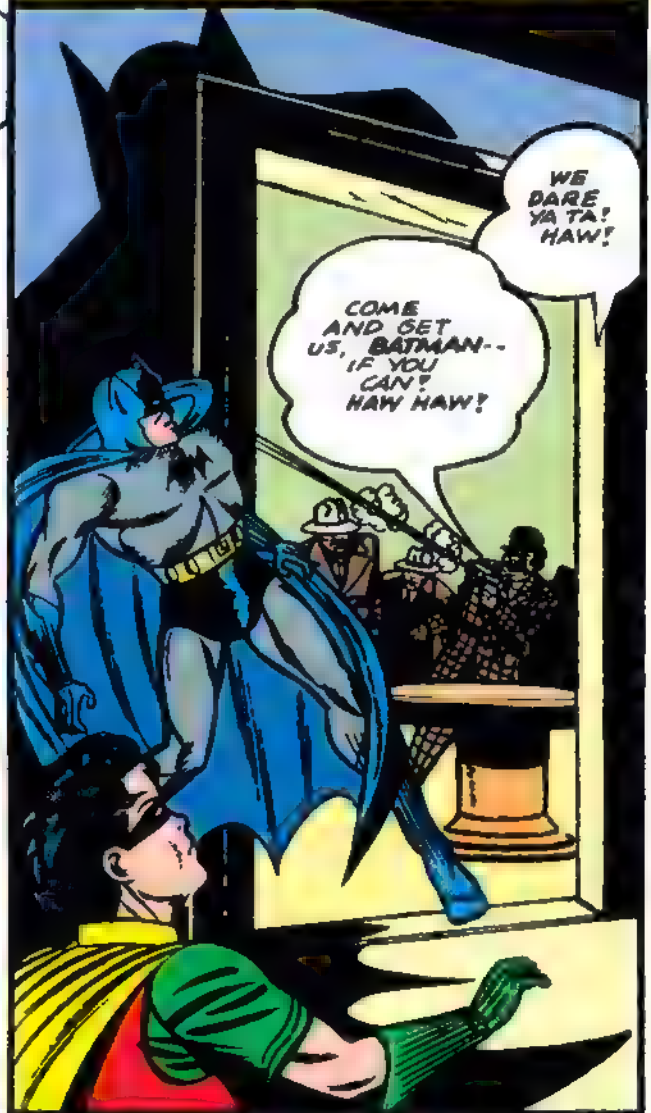
① THE GLASS PELLET SHATTERS WITH A LOUD PLOP! A SLEEPING GAS ROLLS LIKE A FOG OVER THE THUGS.



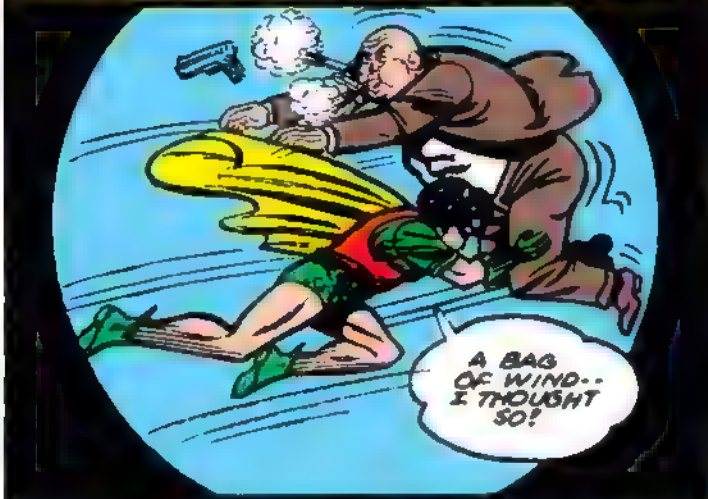
② A SECOND LATER, THE HOODLUMS LIE UNCONSCIOUS ON THE FLOOR!



③ THE BATMAN PUSHES THE DOOR OPEN. HE AND ROBIN FLING THEMSELVES TO THE SIDE AS BULLETS BLAST PAST THEM!



④ WITH THE SWIFTNESS OF CHAIN-LIGHTNING, THE BOY WONDER CHARGES INTO THE ROOM!



⑤ NOTHING I LIKE BETTER THAN A GOOD DARE!

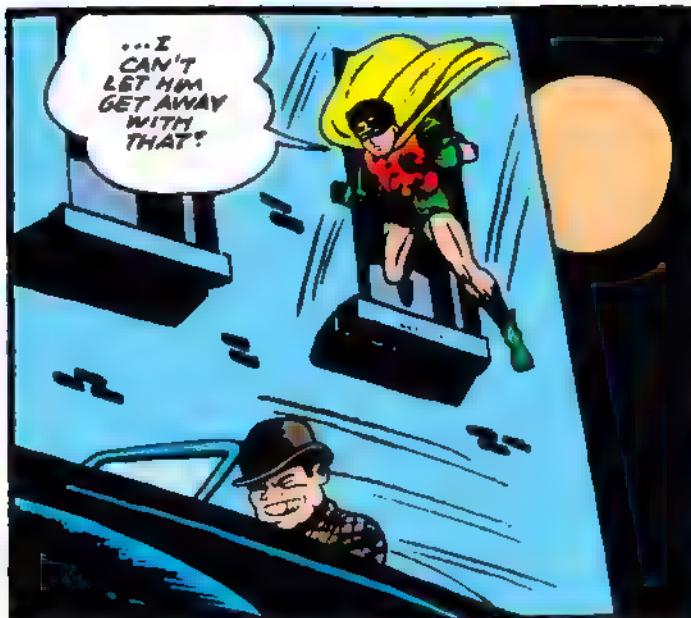


⑥ OVER YOU GO, SONNY!

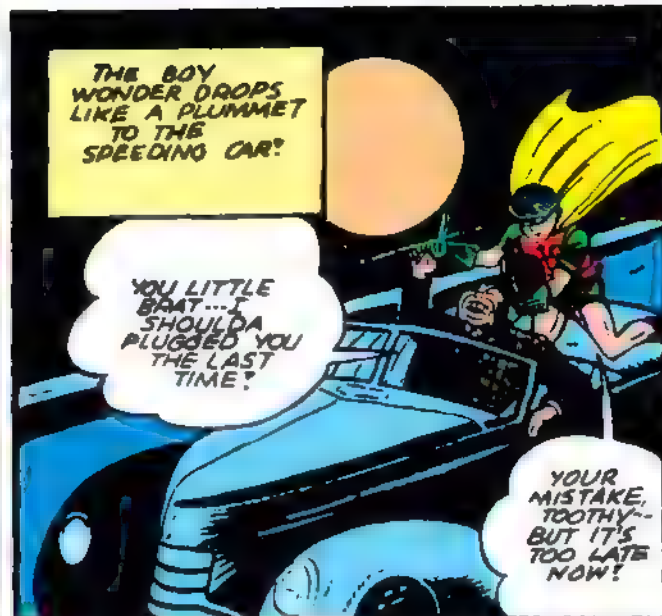


⑦ WENT DOWN THE FIRE ESCAPE, THE YELLOW MUTT, AND HE'S THE GUY THAT CLOUTED ME--





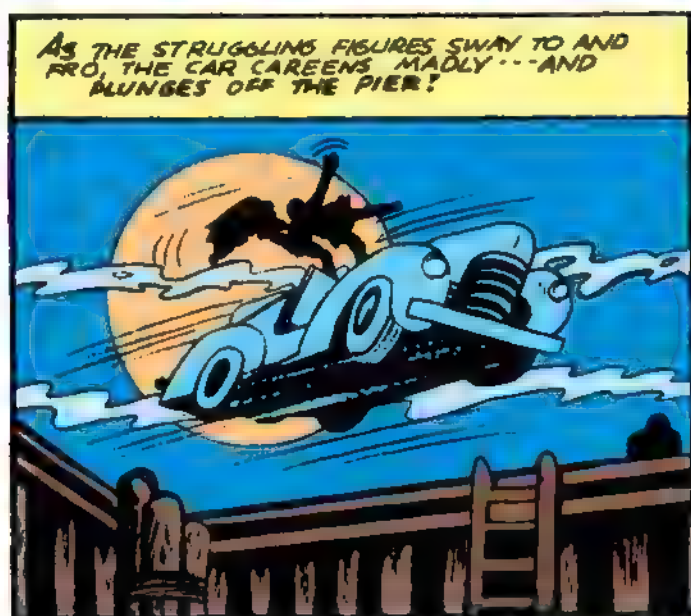
...I CAN'T LET HIM GET AWAY WITH THAT!



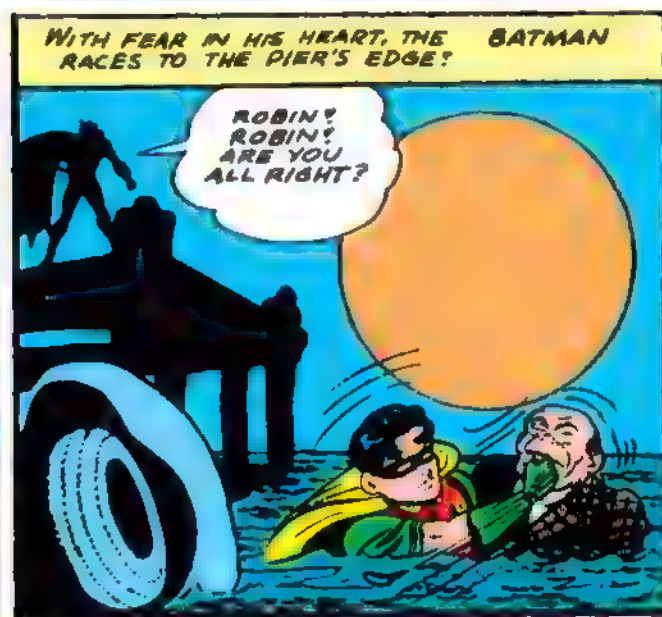
THE BOY WONDER DROPS LIKE A PLUMMET TO THE SPEEDING CAR!

YOU LITTLE BRAT... I SHOULD'VE PLUGGED YOU THE LAST TIME!

YOUR MISTAKE, TOOTHY-- BUT IT'S TOO LATE NOW!



AS THE STRUGGLING FIGURES SWAY TO AND FRO, THE CAR CAREENS MADLY... AND PLUNGES OFF THE PIER!

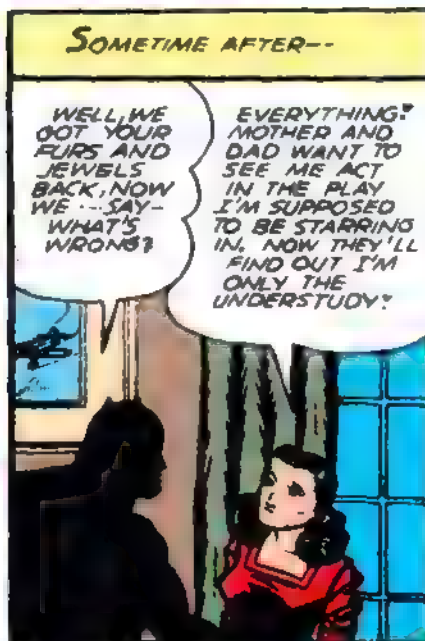


WITH FEAR IN HIS HEART, THE BATMAN RACES TO THE PIER'S EDGE!

ROBIN? ROBIN? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?



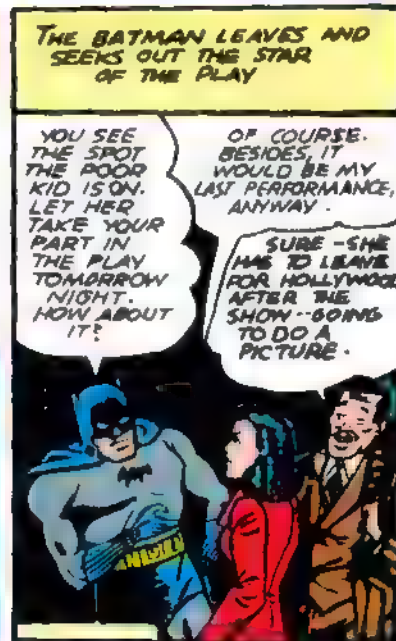
I'M ALL RIGHT... BUT TOOTHY ISN'T... ONLY I THINK FROM NOW ON WE OUGHT TO CALL HIM TOOTHLESS??



SOMETIME AFTER--

WELL, WE GOT YOUR FURS AND JEWELS BACK, NOW WE... SAY-- WHAT'S WRONG?

EVERYTHING! MOTHER AND DAD WANT TO SEE ME ACT IN THE PLAY I'M SUPPOSED TO BE STARRING IN. NOW THEY'LL FIND OUT I'M ONLY THE UNDERSTUDY!

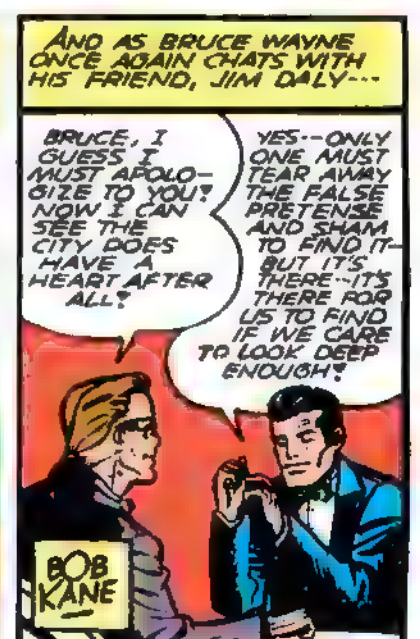
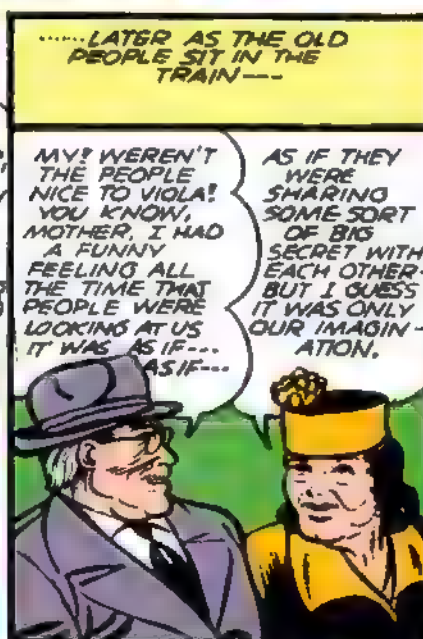
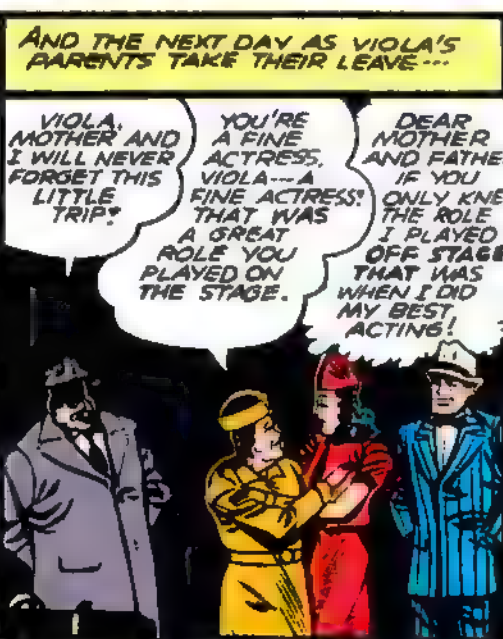
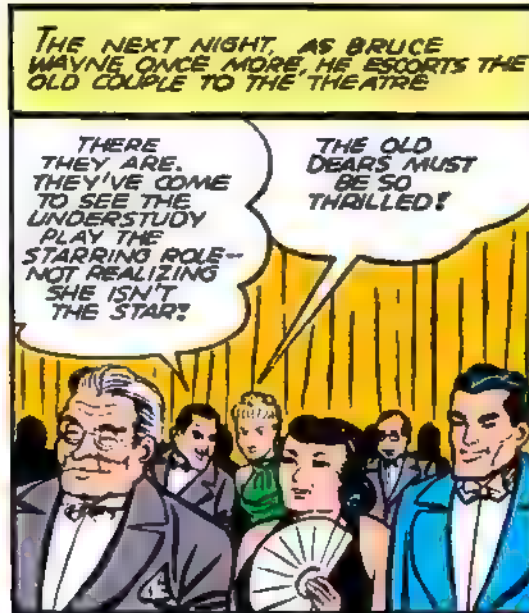
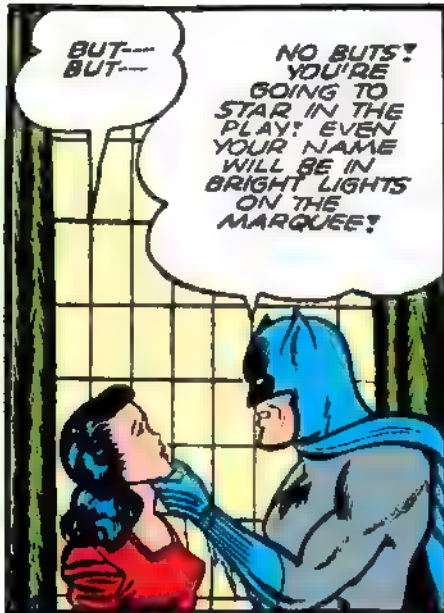


THE BATMAN LEAVES AND SEEKS OUT THE STAR OF THE PLAY

YOU SEE THE SPOT THE POOR KID IS ON. LET HER TAKE YOUR PART IN THE PLAY TOMORROW NIGHT. HOW ABOUT IT?

OF COURSE. BESIDES, IT WOULD BE MY LAST PERFORMANCE, ANYWAY.

SURE--SHE HAS TO LEAVE FOR HOLLYWOOD AFTER THE SHOW--GOING TO DO A PICTURE.



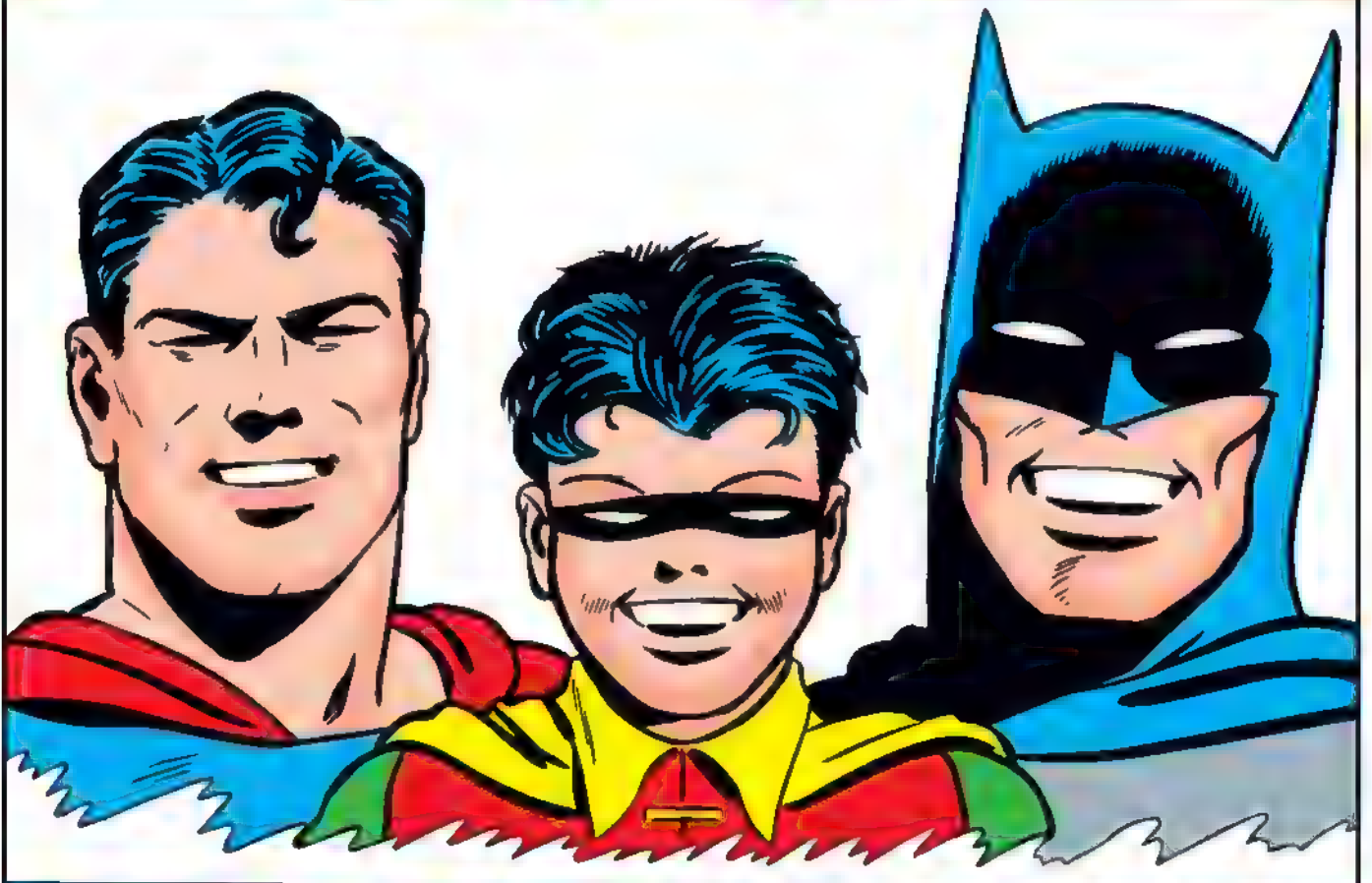
No. 2



WORLD'S FINEST COMICS

96
PAGES

FORMERLY WORLD'S BEST COMICS



SUPERMAN • ZATARA
BATMAN AND ROBIN
RED, WHITE AND BLUE



BATMAN

WITH
Robin
THE BOY WONDER

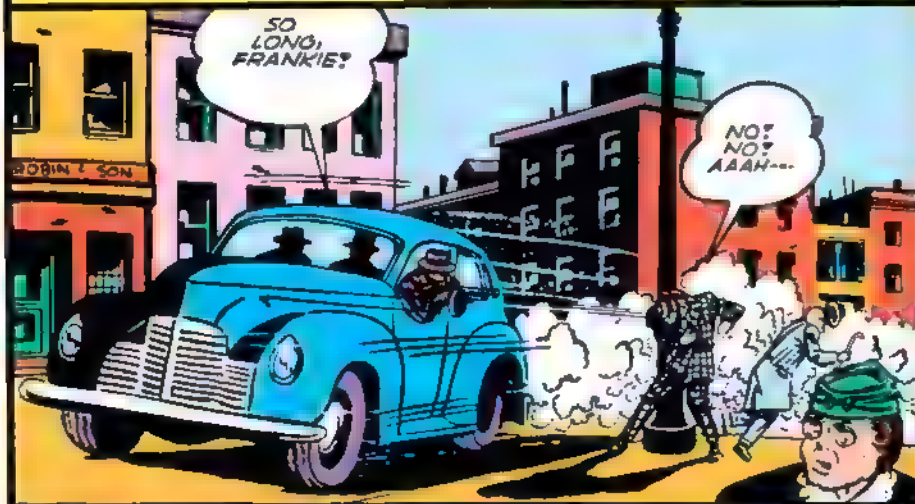
IN GREAT CITIES ALL OVER THE WORLD... FROM THE FLOURISHING CAPITALS OF THE WESTERN WORLD TO THE ARID DESERTS OF THE FAR EAST, ONE NAME HAS BECOME A SYMBOL OF JUSTICE... ONE NAME HAS STRUCK FEAR INTO THE HEARTS OF MEN OF CRIME... THAT IS THE NAME OF THE **BATMAN**! MASTER OF DARKNESS... FOE OF ALL EVIL, THE **BATMAN**, WITH HIS YOUNG AIDE, **ROBIN** THE BOY WONDER, HAS WAGED UNCEASING WAR AGAINST THE DENIZENS OF THE UNDERWORLD AND DELIVERED A MORTAL BLOW TO ORGANIZED CRIME. LET US PICK UP THEIR TRAIL NOW AS THEY LEAD US INTO THE MEMORABLE CASE OF...
"THE MAN WHO COULDN'T REMEMBER!"

BOB KANE

FOR THE PAST TWO MONTHS, GOTHAM CITY HAS SEEN THE FLARE-UP BETWEEN TWO RIVAL GANGS. THE RESULT IS....



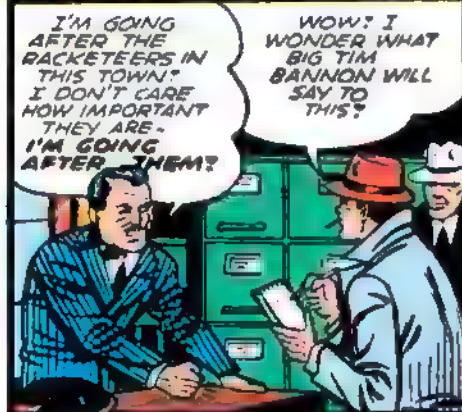
ON A SUNNY AFTERNOON, AS EAGER SHOPPERS CROWD THE STREETS, A CAR SCREECHES ROUND A CORNER, THE SQUAT OF A MACHINE GUN FLAMING SUDDEN DEATH.



THE CAR WHIPS OUT OF SIGHT, LEAVING BEHIND TWO SPRAWLED FIGURES-- A RIVAL GANGSTER-- AND AN INNOCENT, OLD MAN!



LETTERS FROM INDIGNANT CITIZENS POUR IN TO NEWSPAPER OFFICES. RADIO BROADCASTS ARE MADE. FINALLY, THE GOVERNOR HIMSELF INTERVENES, HE APPOINTS A SPECIAL PROSECUTOR TO TAKE CHARGE-- A BRAVE, COURAGEOUS MAN NAMED WILLIAM KENDRICK.



AND WHEN INTERVIEWED, BIG TIM BANNON, POLITICAL BOSS OF THE CITY, SAYS---



BUT, OF COURSE, WE KNOW THE FORMER D.A. IS AND WAS IN BANNON'S PAY!

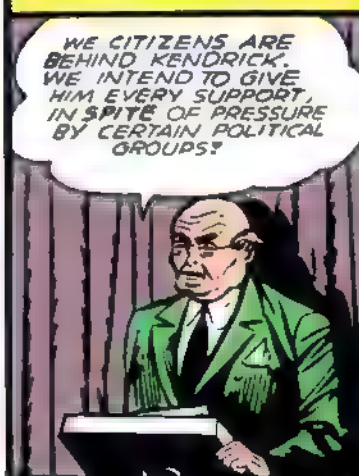
AND OUSTED DISTRICT ATTORNEY GRAVES SAYS---



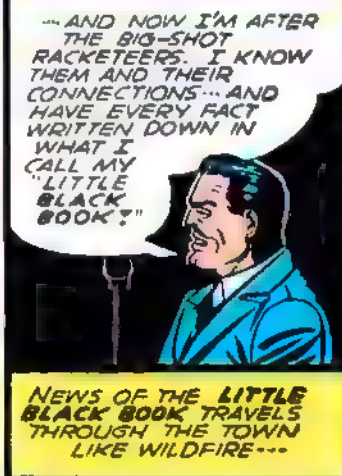
--AND SAYS MITCH MASON, OF THE WEST SIDE MOBSTERS:---



IN RETALIATION TO THESE THREATS, A CITIZENS' COMMITTEE IS FORMED, WITH WEALTHY BUSINESSMAN AMBROSE TAYLOR AT ITS HEAD.



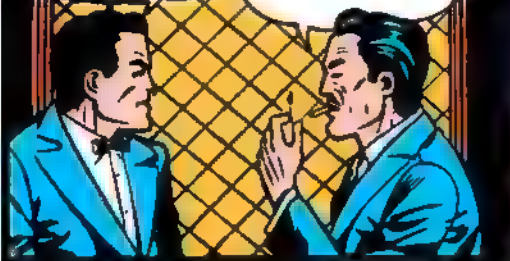
KENDRICK GOES TO WORK WITH A VENGEANCE. INSIDE A WEEK, MOST OF THE MINOR RACKETEERS ARE IMPRISONED.



A DAY LATER, KENDRICK CHATS WITH A SOCIETY FRIEND, BRUCE WAYNE.

WHEN YOU MENTIONED THAT LITTLE BLACK BOOK, YOU WERE SORT OF SIGNING YOUR OWN DEATH WARRANT... OR DIDN'T YOU KNOW?

I'VE HAD NOTES THREATENING DEATH SENT ME ALREADY, BUT THAT ISN'T GOING TO STOP ME ONE BIT?



SO YOU HAVE HAD DEATH THREATS SENT YOU...? THESE MOBSTERS DON'T LOSE ANY TIME.

FORGET IT! IF YOU'RE NOT DOING ANYTHING TONIGHT, WHY NOT COME UP FOR DINNER? IT'S THE SERVANTS' NIGHT OFF. I'LL BE ALL ALONE?



LATER THAT DAY....

..YES.. THE WAITER HEARD KENDRICK SAY HE'D BE ALL ALONE TONIGHT.

YEAH? WELL... MAYBE WE OUGHTA GO UP AND KEEP HIM COMPANY.



....AND IN A CERTAIN MOBSTER'S HEADQUARTERS....

I JUST GOT THE TIP-OFF THAT KENDRICK IS GONNA BE BY HIS LONESOME TONIGHT.

THIS IS JUST THE BREAK WE BEEN WAITIN' FOR. CALL A COUPLA THE BOYS IN? THIS IS PERFECT!



BUT THE BEST-LAID SCHEMES OF MICE AND MEN SOMETIMES GO AWAY... AND THE MAN WHO WAS TO THROW A MONKEY WRENCH INTO THE SCHEME WAS AMBROSE TAYLOR... BY A PHONE CALL?

IS IT POSSIBLE TO SEE YOU THIS EVENING? I HAVE SOME SPECIAL NEWS FROM THE CITIZENS' COMMITTEE.

BY ALL MEANS, I'LL BE QUITE ALONE, AND NO ONE WILL DISTURB US AS WE TALK.



NIGHT CLOAKS THE CITY, BRINGING WITH IT THE BEGINNING OF A STRANGE ADVENTURE. IN HIS APARTMENT, BRUCE WAYNE SPEAKS WITH HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON.

I DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF KENDRICK BEING ALL ALONE TONIGHT... I THINK I'LL KEEP AN EYE ON HIM?

I DON'T BLAME YOU. HE SURE LEFT HIMSELF OPEN FOR TROUBLE BY MENTIONING THAT LITTLE BLACK BOOK?



INSTEAD OF BRUCE WAYNE, SOCIETY PLAYBOY--THE BATMAN--SILENTLY, A BLOTTED SHAPE IN THE GLOOM, THE BATMAN RACES THROUGH THE NIGHT?



AS HE REACHES KENDRICK'S LODGINGS, HE NOTICES A CAR IDLING NEARBY....

THAT CAR... FROM THE LICENSE NUMBER, I CAN TELL IT'S BANNON'S! SOMETHING'S UP?



NOISELESSLY AS A JUNGLE CAT HE MOVES UP THE FIRE ESCAPE ---



---AND BURSTS IN KENDRICK'S ROOM UPON A HORRIBLE SCENE?



WHAT...? KENDRICK... TAYLOR?

THE BATMAN?

THE BATMAN BECOMES A THUNDERBOLT OF FURY??



YOU ROTTEN MURDERERS!



THAT'S IT! HOLD HIM SO I CAN PLUG HIM!

QUICKER THAN THE EYE CAN FOLLOW, THE BATMAN'S FOOT LASHES OUT AT THE DESK --- SPILLING THE THUG?



BUT THAT MOMENT GIVES HIS OPPONENT THE ADVANTAGE. DARKNESS CLOSES IN ON THE BATMAN?



WHEN THE BATMAN COMES TO, HE FINDS THE GUNMEN ARE--



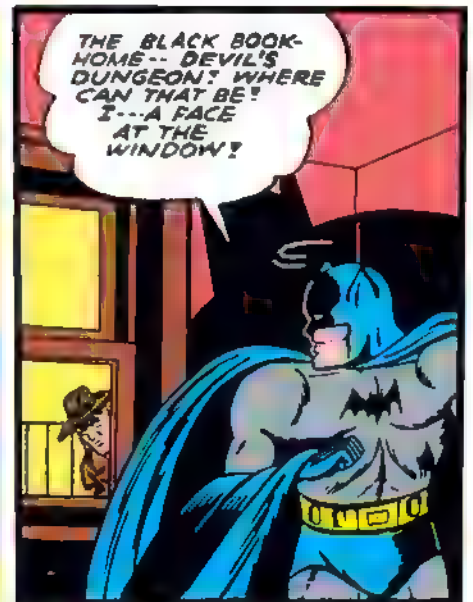
GONE? WOW... MY HEAD... BETTER TAKE A LOOK AT TAYLOR AND KENDRICK?



HE'S ALIVE
JUST HAD HIS
SCALP CREASED
BY A BULLET?
NOW FOR
KENDRICK?



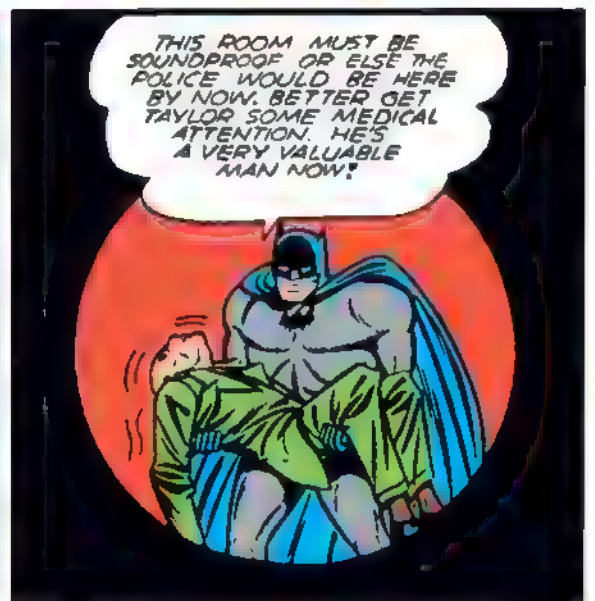
BATMAN--
HOME--
BLACK BOOK--
DEVIL'S
DUNGEON--
AAAAH--



THE BLACK BOOK--
HOME-- DEVIL'S
DUNGEON? WHERE
CAN THAT BE?
I--A FACE
AT THE
WINDOW?



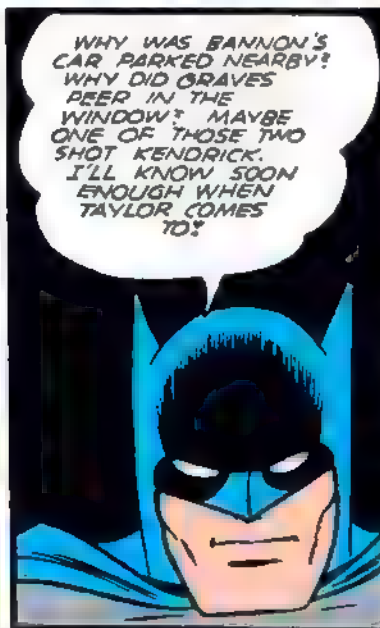
I KNOW THAT
FACE. THAT WAS
GRAVES--
NOW WHAT
WAS HE DOING
HERE?
MNN?



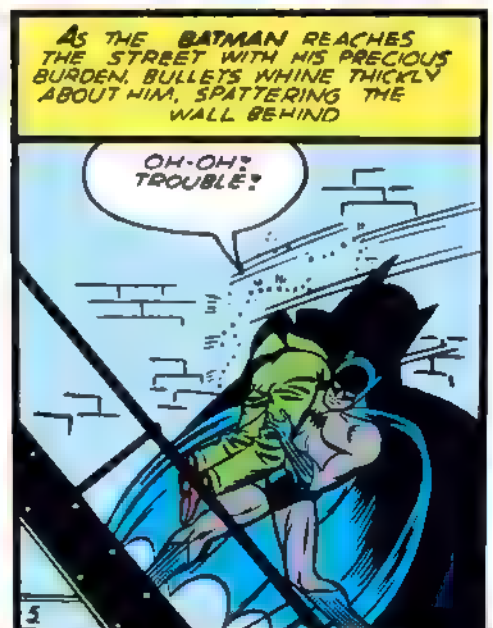
THIS ROOM MUST BE
SOUNDPROOF OR ELSE THE
POLICE WOULD BE HERE
BY NOW. BETTER GET
TAYLOR SOME MEDICAL
ATTENTION. HE'S
A VERY VALUABLE
MAN NOW!



YES, SIR. TAYLOR IS
THE ONLY WITNESS TO
KENDRICK'S MURDER.
HE CAN PICK OUT
THE MAN WHO SHOT
HIM--AND MAYBE
IT WASN'T THOSE
THUGS, EITHER?



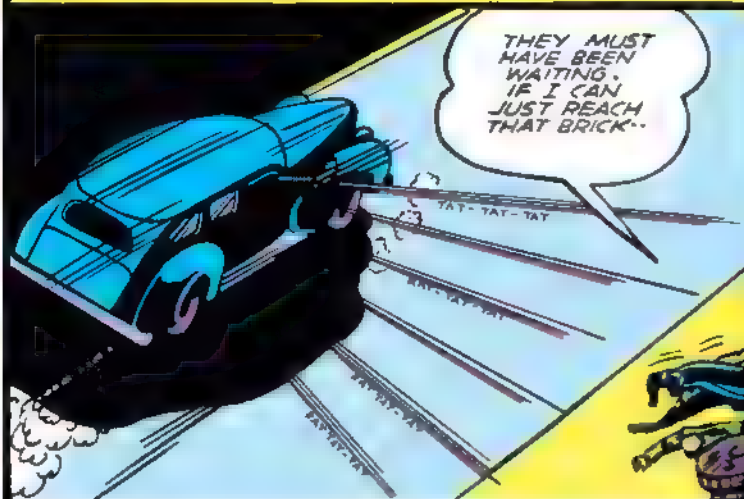
WHY WAS BANNON'S
CAR PARKED NEARBY?
WHY DID GRAVES
PEER IN THE
WINDOW? MAYBE
ONE OF THOSE TWO
SHOT KENDRICK.
I'LL KNOW SOON
ENOUGH WHEN
TAYLOR COMES
TO?



AS THE BATMAN REACHES
THE STREET WITH HIS PRECIOUS
BURDEN, BULLETS WHINE THICKLY
ABOUT HIM, SPATTERING THE
WALL BEHIND

OH-OH?
TROUBLE?

IN ONE LIGHTNING MOVE, THE BATMAN FLATTENS HIMSELF AND TAYLOR AGAINST THE GROUND --- AND NONE TOO SOON.

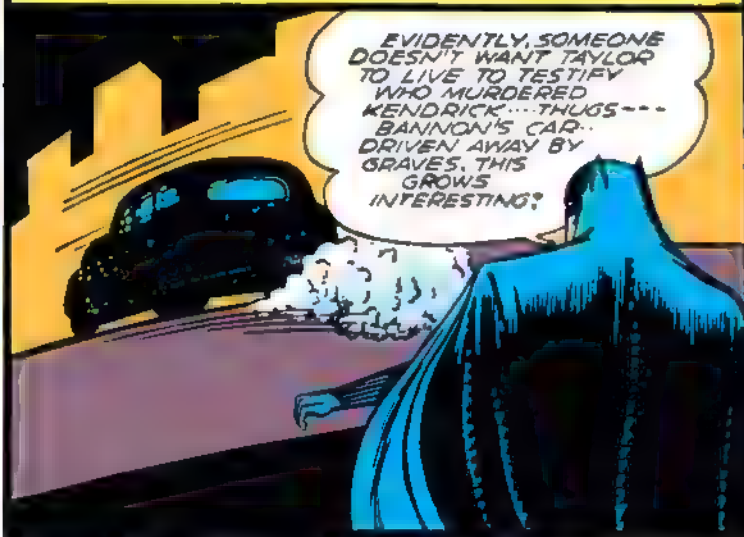


THEY MUST HAVE BEEN WAITING. IF I CAN JUST REACH THAT BRICK--

THE BATMAN HURLS THE BRICK INTO THE FACE OF THE MACHINE-GUNNER---

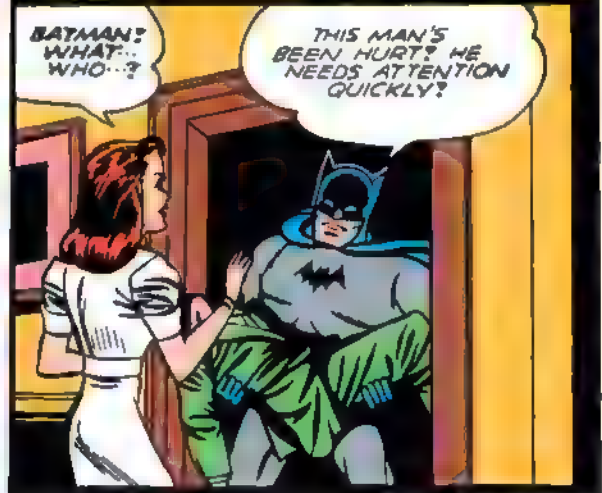


WITH A CLASH OF GEARS, THE CAR LEAPS AWAY.



EVIDENTLY, SOMEONE DOESN'T WANT TAYLOR TO LIVE TO TESTIFY WHO MURDERED KENDRICK... THUGS--- BANNON'S CAR.. DRIVEN AWAY BY GRAVES. THIS GROWS INTERESTING?

MINUTES LATER--THE APARTMENT OF LINDA PAGE, A SOCIETY GIRL WHO HAS BECOME A NURSE IN ORDER TO MAKE SOMETHING OF HERSELF.



BATMAN? WHAT... WHO...?

THIS MAN'S BEEN HURT? HE NEEDS ATTENTION QUICKLY?

UNDER LINDA'S EXPERT NURSING, TAYLOR SOON REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS--



YOU'RE ALL RIGHT NOW, TAYLOR. NOW TELL ME. YOU SAW KENDRICK SHOT. WHO DID IT?

SHOT...? YES... SHOTS? I HEARD THEM?

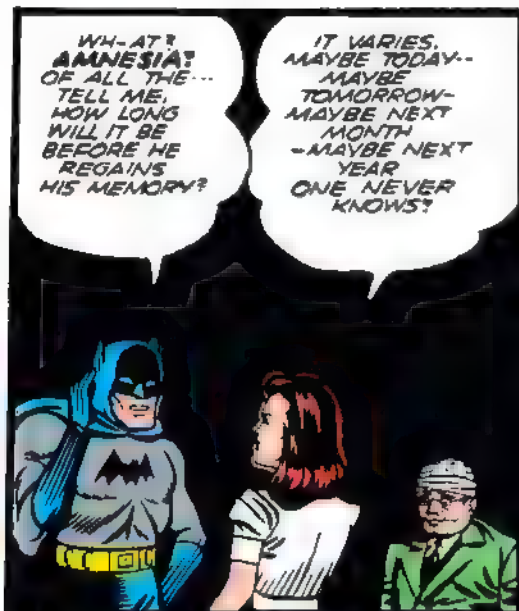
YES--I KNOW. BUT YOU KNOW WHO SHOT KENDRICK AND YOURSELF? WHO WAS IT?

I-I DON'T REMEMBER-- I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING?

WHAT? BUT...

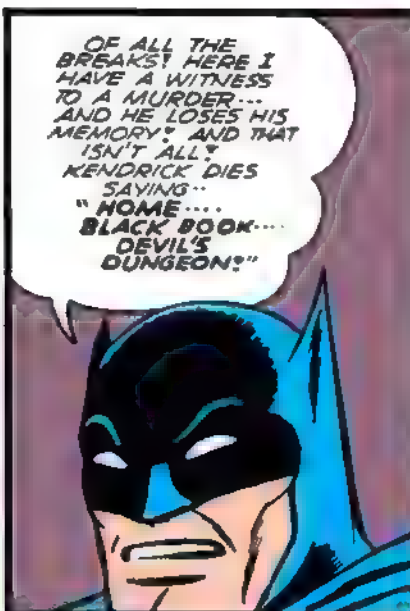
BATMAN, I'VE SEEN THIS TYPE OF CASE BEFORE. THIS MAN HAS AMNESIA?? THE BULLET THAT HIT THE TOP OF HIS HEAD HAS CAUSED HIM TO TEMPORARILY LOSE HIS MEMORY?



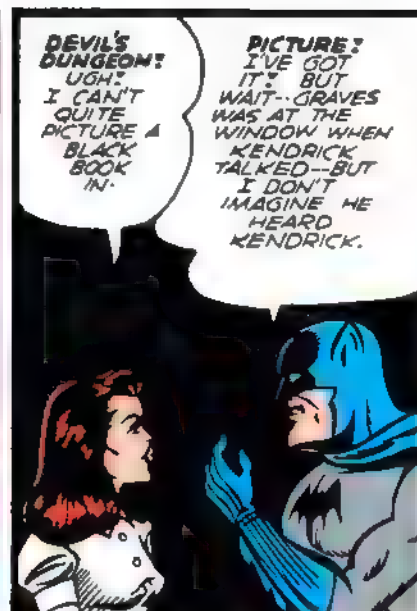


WH-AT? AMNESIA? OF ALL THE... TELL ME, HOW LONG WILL IT BE BEFORE HE REGAINS HIS MEMORY?

IT VARIES, MAYBE TODAY-- MAYBE TOMORROW-- MAYBE NEXT MONTH-- MAYBE NEXT YEAR-- ONE NEVER KNOWS?



OF ALL THE BREAKS! HERE I HAVE A WITNESS TO A MURDER-- AND HE LOSES HIS MEMORY? AND THAT ISN'T ALL? KENDRICK DIES SAYING-- "HOME... BLACK BOOK... DEVIL'S DUNGEON?"



DEVIL'S DUNGEON? UGH! I CAN'T QUITE PICTURE A BLACK BOOK IN--

PICTURE? I'VE GOT IT! BUT WAIT-- GRAVES WAS AT THE WINDOW WHEN KENDRICK TALKED-- BUT I DON'T IMAGINE HE HEARD KENDRICK.

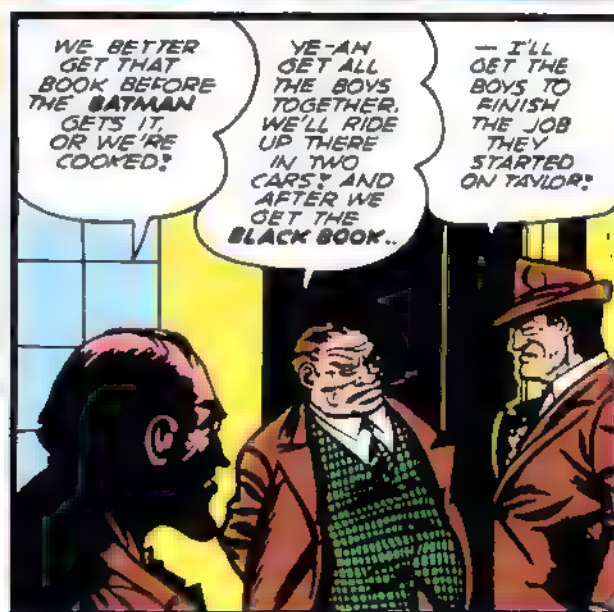
BUT THE BATMAN IS WRONG, FOR GRAVES LIKE ALL RATS, HAS SHARP EARS!



"AND HE SAID, 'HOME... BLACK BOOK- DEVIL'S DUNGEON?' BUT THE BOYS SEARCHED HIS ROOM-- AND NO BLACK BOOK?"

HOME! SAY, AIN'T KENDRICK GOT A BIG HOME OUT IN THE SUBURBS?

YE-AH? SURE? AND MAYBE IT'S GOT A DUNGEON HE CALLS THE 'DEVIL'S DUNGEON.' MAYBE HE HID THE BOOK THERE?

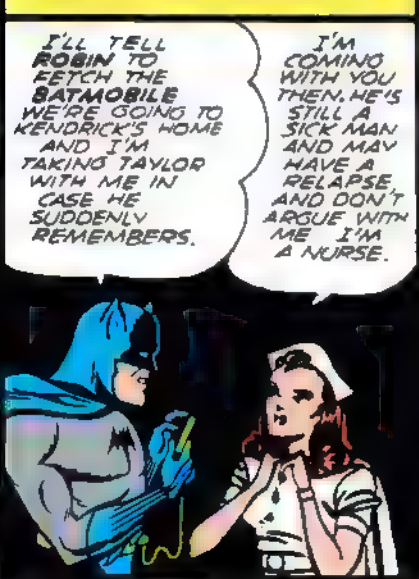


WE BETTER GET THAT BOOK BEFORE THE BATMAN GETS IT, OR WE'RE COOKED?

YE-AH GET ALL THE BOYS TOGETHER, WE'LL RIDE UP THERE IN TWO CARS, AND AFTER WE GET THE BLACK BOOK--

-- I'LL GET THE BOYS TO FINISH THE JOB THEY STARTED ON TAYLOR?

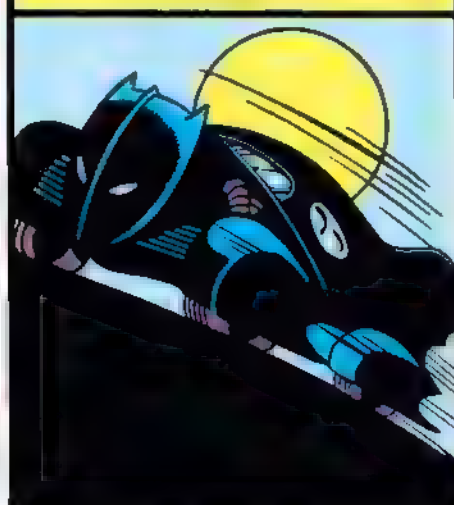
AND AT THAT MOMENT--



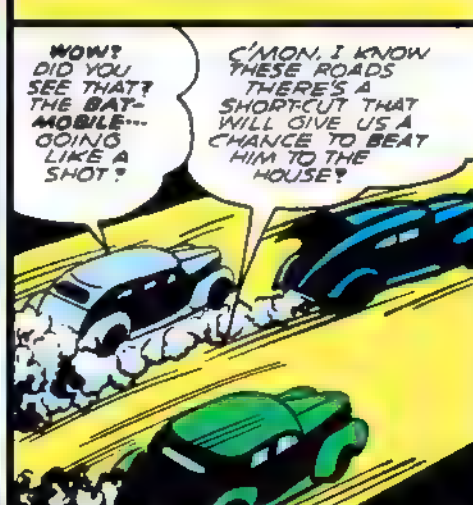
I'LL TELL ROBIN TO FETCH THE BATMOBILE. WE'RE GOING TO KENDRICK'S HOME AND I'M TAKING TAYLOR WITH ME IN CASE HE SUDDENLY REMEMBERS.

I'M COMING WITH YOU THEN, HE'S STILL A SICK MAN AND MAY HAVE A RELAPSE AND DON'T ARGUE WITH ME I'M A NURSE.

A SHORT TIME LATER, A CAR STREAKS LIKE A BULLET UP THE ROAD LEADING TO THE SUBURBS. IT IS THE BATMOBILE?

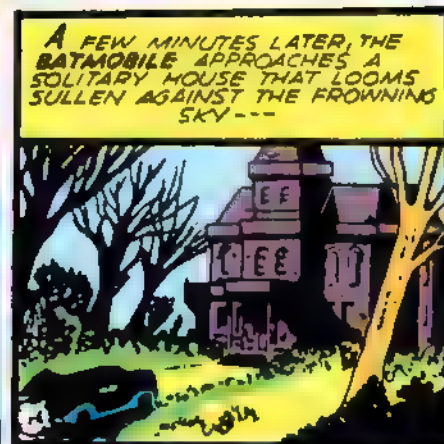
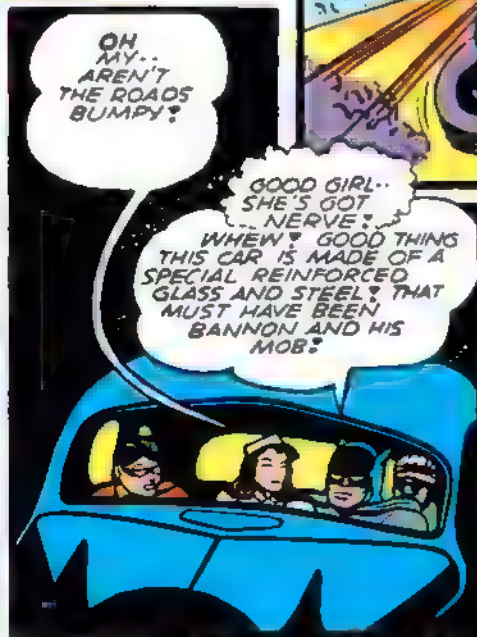
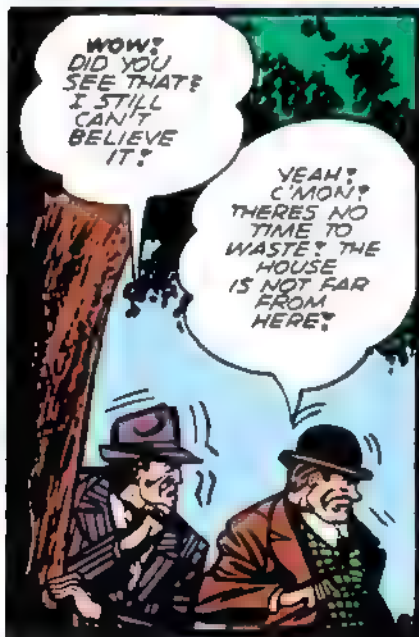
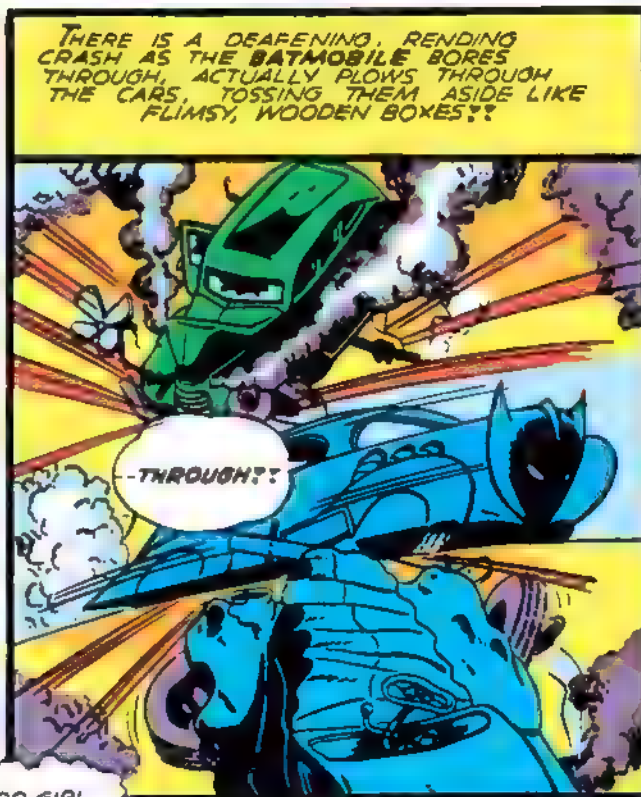
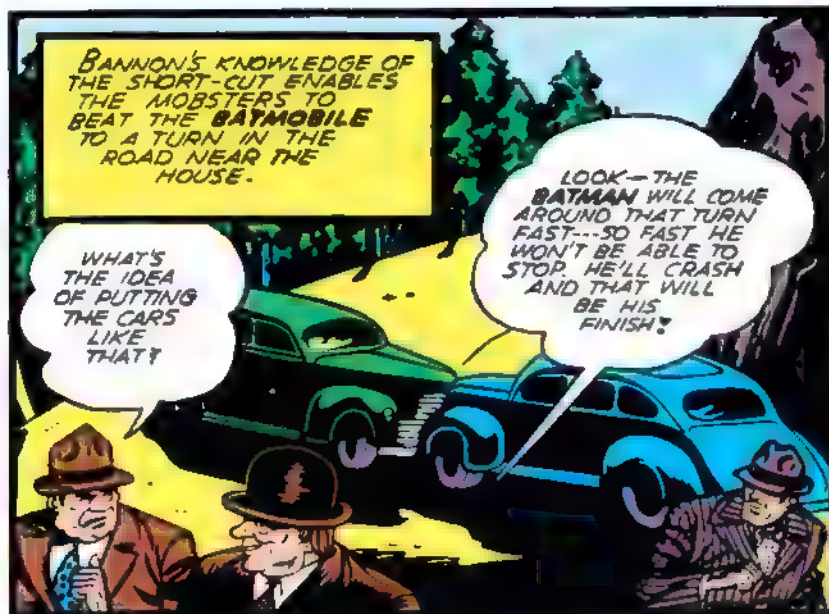


IT WHIZZES PAST TWO SLOWER MOVING CARS TRAVELING THE SAME ROAD-- THE CARS CONTAINING BANNON AND THE MOBSTERS?



WOW! DID YOU SEE THAT? THE BATMOBILE-- GOING LIKE A SHOT?

C'MON, I KNOW THESE ROADS THERE'S A SHORTCUT THAT WILL GIVE US A CHANCE TO BEAT HIM TO THE HOUSE?



THE BATMAN FORCES HIS ENTRY WITH A PASS-KEY. THE DOOR CREAKS SLOWLY INWARD AND THE LARGE, EMPTY HOUSE STRETCHES BEFORE THEM LIKE THE YAWNING JAWS OF A COLOSSAL MONSTER.



CHEERFUL-LOOKING PLACE... I DON'T THINK?

NO LIGHTS? ELECTRICITY MUST HAVE BEEN SHUT OFF?

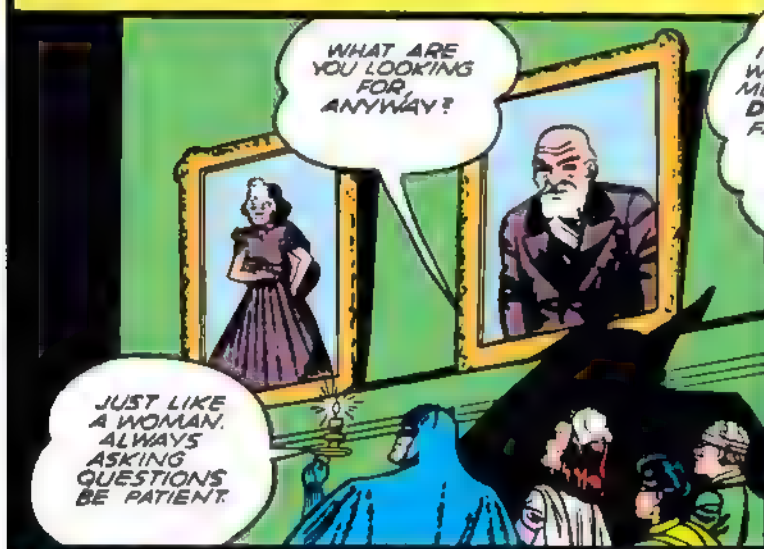
TREADING SOFTLY, AS IF NOT TO AWAKEN THE GHOSTS OF THOSE LONG DEAD, THE GROUP MOUNTS THE STAIRCASE.



IT'S A LUCKY THING YOU FOUND THAT CANDLE?

SHH? FOLLOW ME?

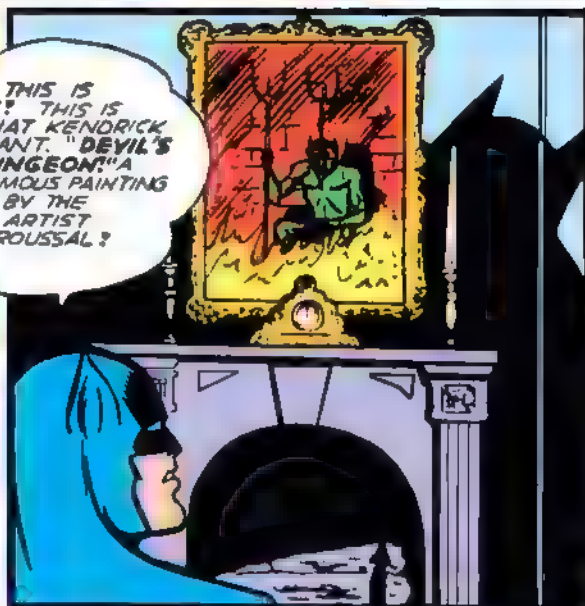
LIKE PHANTOMS, THEY FLIT THROUGH THE DISMAL ROOMS.



WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR, ANYWAY?

JUST LIKE A WOMAN. ALWAYS ASKING QUESTIONS BE PATIENT.

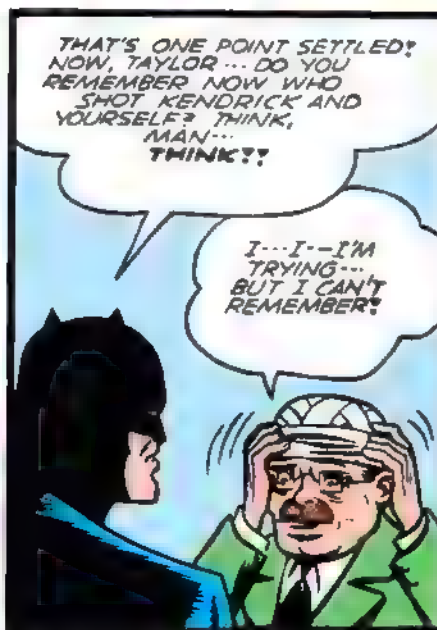
THIS IS IT? THIS IS WHAT KENDRICK MEANT. "DEVIL'S DUNGEON!" A FAMOUS PAINTING BY THE ARTIST ROUSSAL?



--- AND BEHIND THE PICTURE, WHERE KENDRICK HID IT... IS THE BLACK BOOK?

THAT'S ONE POINT SETTLED? NOW, TAYLOR... DO YOU REMEMBER NOW WHO SHOT KENDRICK AND YOURSELF? THINK, MAN... THINK??

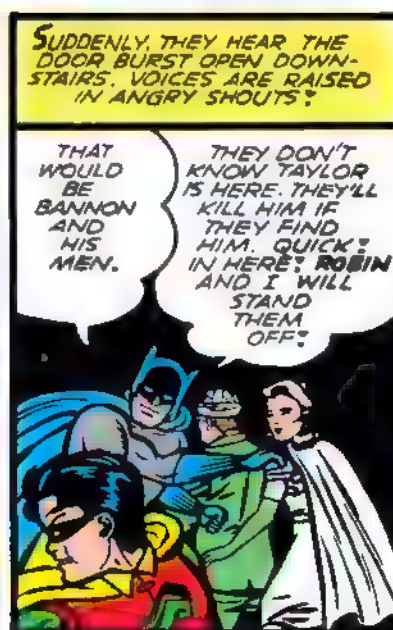
I... I--I'M TRYING... BUT I CAN'T REMEMBER?

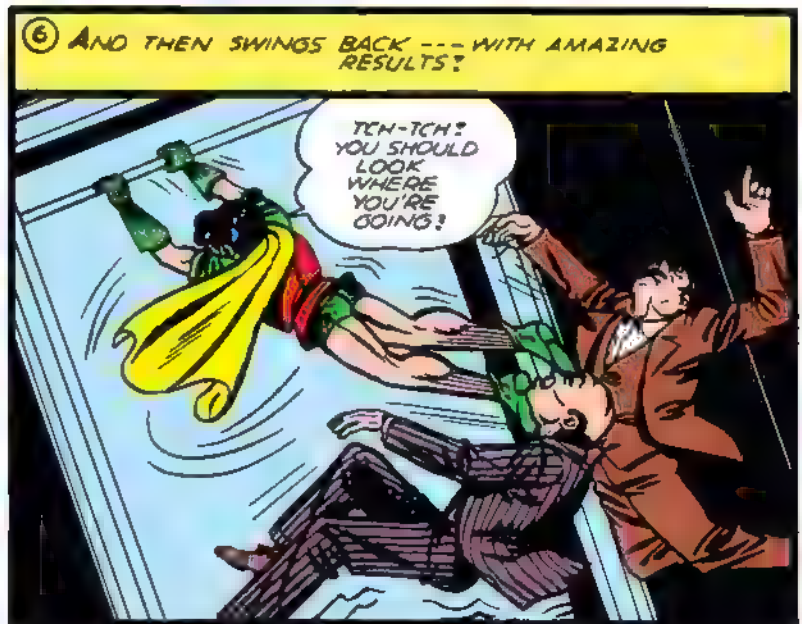
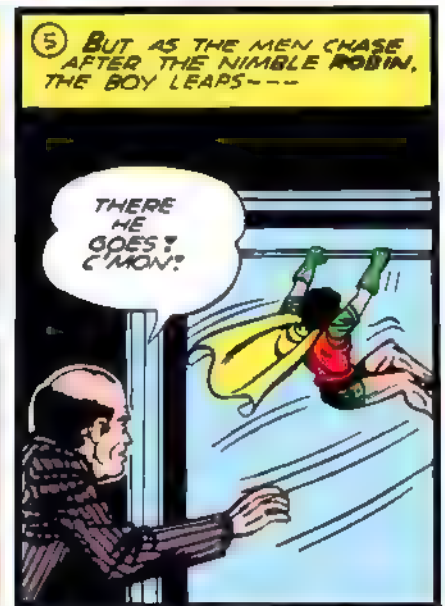
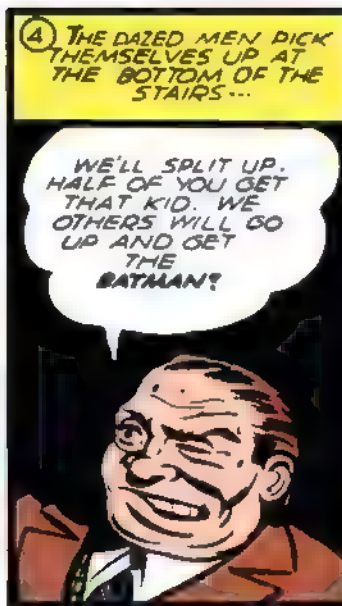
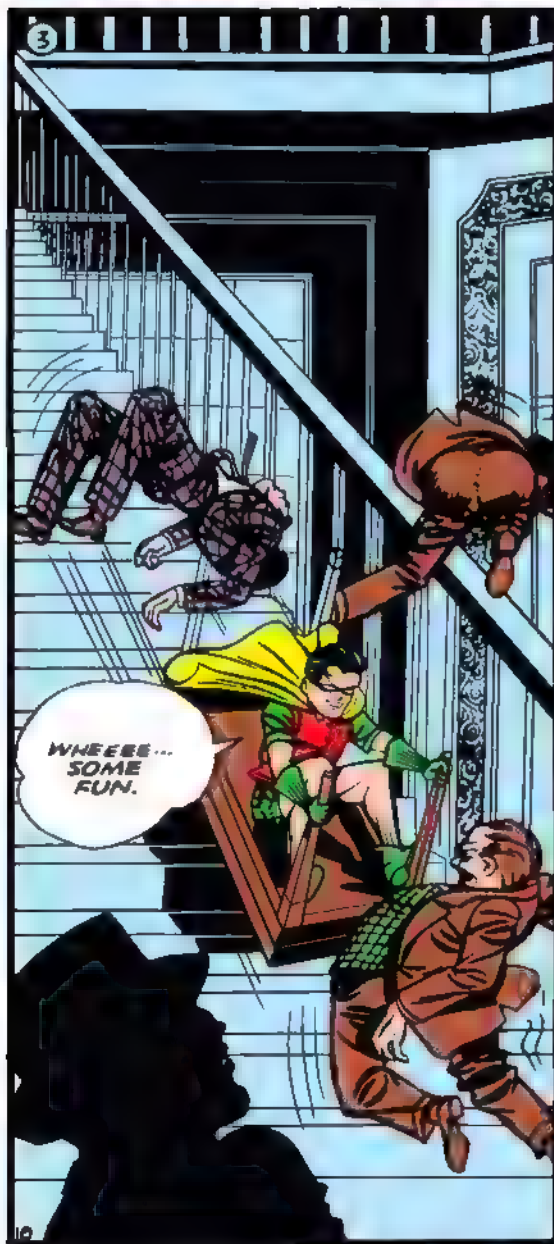
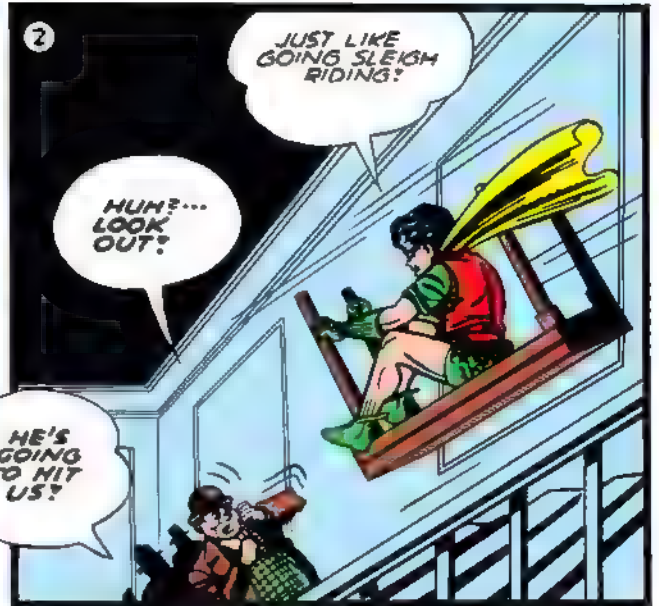


SUDDENLY, THEY HEAR THE DOOR BURST OPEN DOWN-STAIRS. VOICES ARE RAISED IN ANGRY SHOUTS:

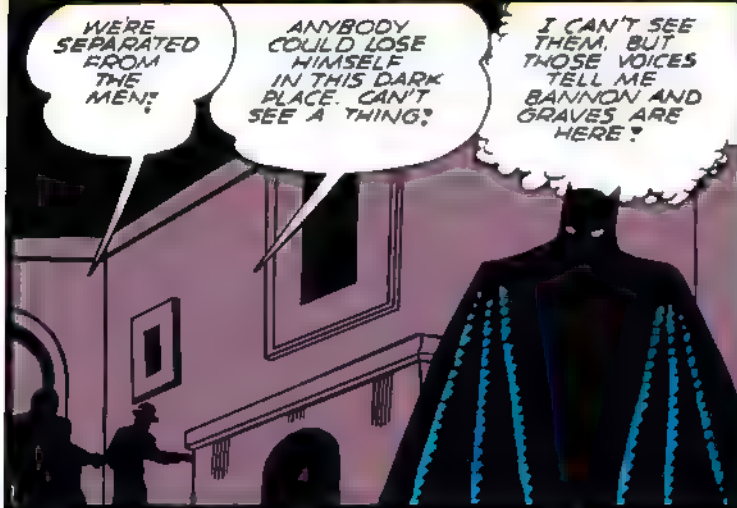
THAT WOULD BE BANNON AND HIS MEN.

THEY DON'T KNOW TAYLOR IS HERE. THEY'LL KILL HIM IF THEY FIND HIM. QUICK! IN HERE! ROBIN AND I WILL STAND THEM OFF.





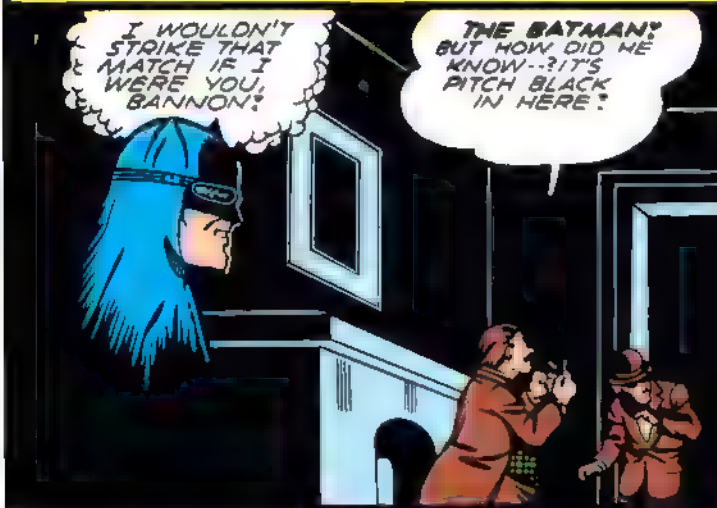
MEANWHILE, BANNON AND GRAVES LOSE THEIR WAY IN THE CLOSE-PRESSING DARKNESS.



FROM A POUCH, ESPECIALLY BUILT IN HIS BELT, THE BATMAN TAKES A QUEER-LOOKING PAIR OF GLASSES



THOUGH HE HIMSELF CANNOT BE SEEN, WITH THESE ESPECIALLY PREPARED GLASSES, THE BATMAN CAN SEE IN THE DARK---AS WOULD A REAL BAT?



THE BATMAN, THROUGH A THOROUGH STUDY OF VENTRILOQUISM, CAN THROW HIS VOICE IN ANY DIRECTION HE PLEASES.



THE MEN SHUDDER IN TERROR AT THE "SUPERNATURAL" POWER OF THE BATMAN?



SUDDENLY, A SCREAM RINGS THROUGH THE HOUSE. THE FEW REMAINING THUGS HAVE FOUND LINDA AND TAYLOR?



A GUN BUTT CRASHES DOWN ON TAYLOR'S HEAD?



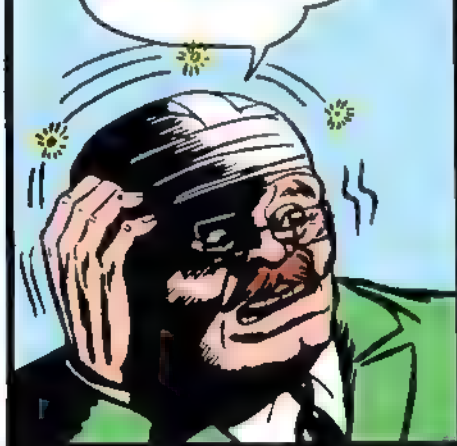
ABRUPTLY, TWO CLOAKED FIGURES LUNGE FORWARD, FISTS FLAILING?



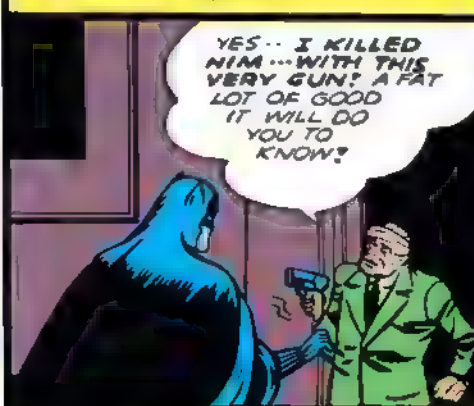
IN A FEW, FLYING MOMENTS, THE THUGS HAVE BEEN FLATTENED AND TRUSSED UP WITH THE OTHERS?



I REMEMBER! I KILLED KENDRICK? THEN TRIG COOLER'S BOYS CAME IN AND SHOT ME?



SUDDENLY, TAYLOR CUTS OFF HIS WORDS AS HE REALIZES WHAT HE HAS SAID IN HIS EXCITEMENT HIS HAND FLASHES TO A POCKET...

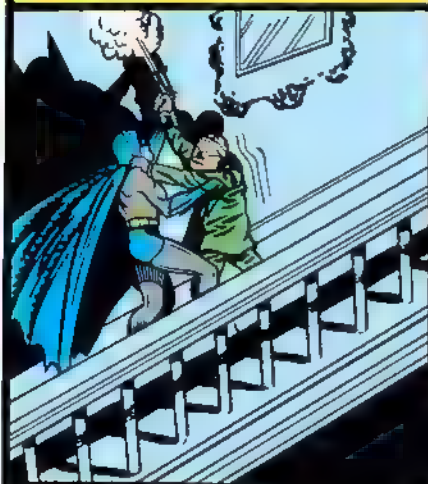


THE AMAZING CONFESSION HAS SO ASTOUNDED THE BATMAN THAT FOR ONCE HE HAS BEEN CAUGHT FLATFOOTED...

....BUT NOT FOR LONG? A SHOT BUZZES OVER HIS HEAD AS HE LEAPS?



THE TWO LOCK GRIPS?
BACK AND FORTH THEY SWAY
ONTO THE HALL BALCONY IN
A WILD DERVISH OF DEATH?



WITH A TITANIC
EFFORT, THE BATMAN
TEARS A HAND FREE.
WINDS IT INTO A FIST...
AND CRASHES IT AGAINST
TAYLOR'S CHIN?



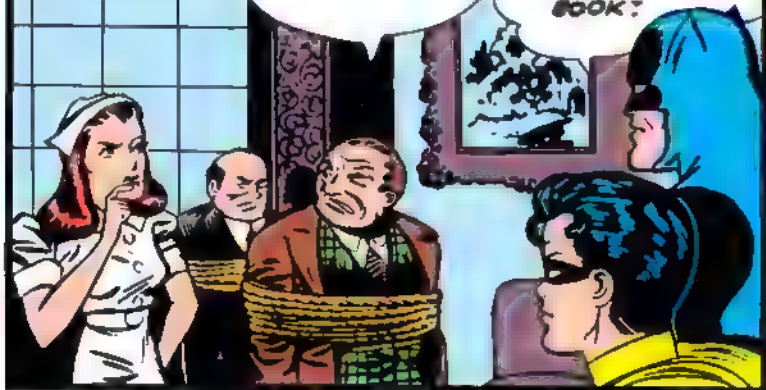
A SUDDEN SPLINTERING OF WOOD,
AND TAYLOR PLUNGES THROUGH
THE BALCONY RAILING?



TAYLOR...
THE MURDERER?
IT DOESN'T
MAKE
SENSE?

SURE IT
DOES. TAYLOR
WAS THE
REAL LEADER
OF THE WEST
SIDE MOBSTERS?
MITCH MASON
WAS ONLY HIS
LIEUTENANT?

THEN HE
SHOT
KENDRICK
BECAUSE
HE THOUGHT
HE KNEW...
AND HAD THE
INFORMATION
IN THE LITTLE
BLACK
BOOK?



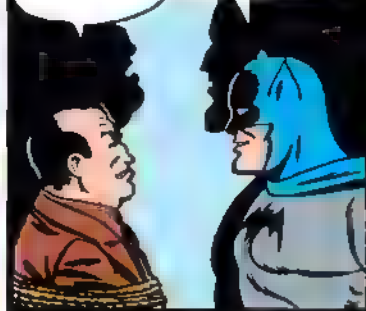
WHEN MY
BOYS WENT
INTO THE ROOM
TO FORCE
KENDRICK TO
GIVE UP THE
BLACK BOOK,
THEY SAW
THAT TAYLOR
SHOT HIM.
THEY TRIED
TO GET
TAYLOR
'CAUSE HE WAS
FROM THE
RIVAL MOB.

HMM? YOU
WERE WORKING
WITH BANNON--
GIVING HIM A
CUT FOR
POLITICAL
PROTECTION?
BUT WHY
DIDN'T YOU
JUST TELL
THE POLICE
TAYLOR WAS
THE MURDERER?
YOU'D HAVE
RID YOURSELF
OF HIM THAT
WAY.



IF WE
SQUEALED
ON TAYLOR,
TAYLOR
WOULD TALK
HE KNOWS
THINGS
ABOUT A
LOT OF
US THAT
MIGHT GET
US IN
PRISON
CELLS,
TOO?

A CASE OF SELF-
PROTECTION
WELL, NOW
ALL THAT'S
LEFT TO
DO IS GIVE
THE BLACK
BOOK TO
THE POLICE
AND LET
THEM TAKE
OVER.

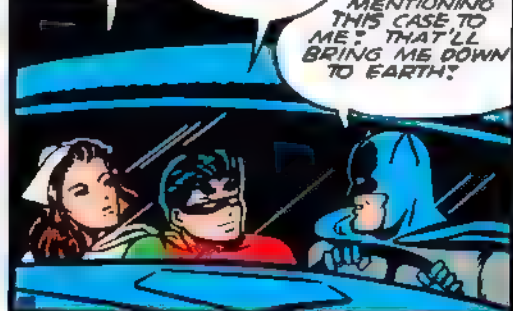


LATER... AFTER THEY HAVE
INFORMED THE POLICE, THE TRIO
ARE HOMEWARD BOUND...

WHO
WOULD
HAVE
THOUGHT
TAYLOR
WAS THE
MURDERER?

IMAGINE,
WE HAD
THE
MURDERER
IN OUR
HANDS
ALL THE
TIME AND
DIDN'T
KNOW
IT?

ROBIN,
IF EVER
YOU FEEL
I'M
GETTING
TOO
COCKSURE
OF MY-
SELF, I'D
APPRECIATE
YOUR
MENTIONING
THIS CASE TO
ME. THAT'LL
BRING ME DOWN
TO EARTH?





THE BATMAN

No. 54



IND

Detective COMICS



BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN

-THE BOY WONDER-

PIRATES! THAT WORD MAKES ONE THINK OF BLACK-BEARD, CAPTAIN KIDD, BLACK-LEGERS OF LONG AGO. YET, TODAY, THERE ARE STILL PIRATES--HONEST-TO-GOSH, BLACK-HEARTED, GUN-TOTING PIRATES WHO STILL RIDE THE WATER-WAYS IN FAST CRAFT. THESE ARE THE HARBOR PIRATES OF TODAY! THESE ARE THE TOUGH MOBSTERS ONE CAN SEE LURKING ON THE WATERFRONT OF MOST ANY SEAPORT. EVIL, TRICKY, THEY ARE EVEN MORE VICIOUS THAN THOSE WHO SAILED UNDER THE BLACK FLAG CENTURIES AGO! READ HOW THE **BATMAN AND ROBIN**, THE BOY WONDER, GRAPPLE WITH THESE VULTURES OF THE PIERS AND DROWN THE EVIL PRACTISES OF "HOOK MORGAN and his HARBOR PIRATES!"

BOB KANE

NIGHT....DARK, ROBBY NIGHT HANGS OVER THE WATERFRONT! ON ONE OF ITS MANY PIERS, INCOMING GOODS ARE BEING UNLOADED FROM AN IDLING TRAMP STEAMER---

AFTER THE UNLOADING--



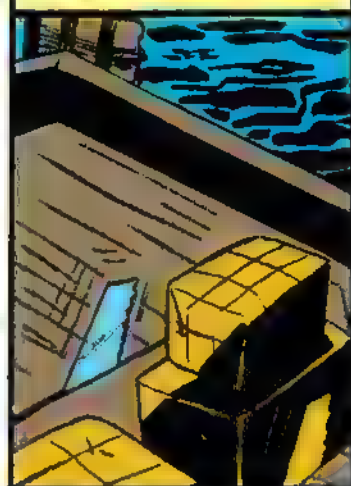
ALL RIGHT, BOYS! GET THAT STUFF INTO THE WAREHOUSE! LET'S GO!

PART OF THE CARGO LIES ON THE PIER APPARENTLY SAFE-- BUT DANGER LURKS UNDER THE PIER ITSELF! IN THE BLACK SHADOWS BELOW, A DARK CRAFT MOVES SILENTLY--



OKAY! GET THOSE SAWS GOING! THEY'LL BE BACK IN A FEW MOMENTS!

LIKE EVIL TERMITES, THE MEN BORE THROUGH THE WOODEN PIER--

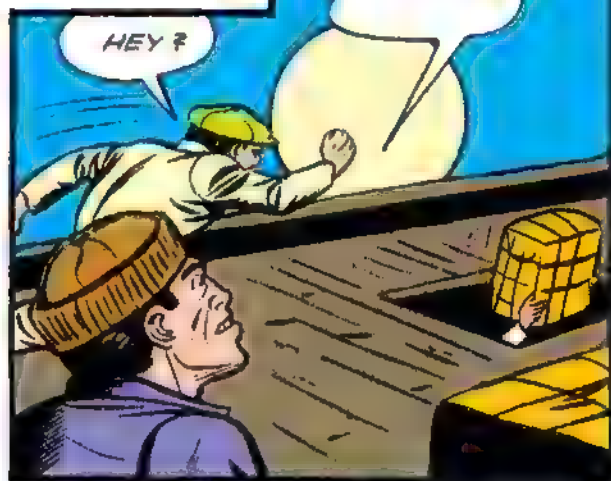


MOMENTS LATER--



UGH? THIS STUFF IS HEAVY! MUST BE SILK INSIDE!

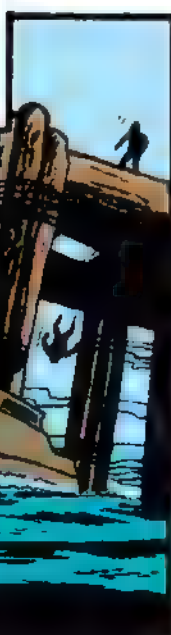
OKAY! EASY NOW! THAT'S IT!



HEY?

SOMEBODY'S STEALIN' THE BALES!

SUDDENLY, A DAZZLING WHITE SHAFT OF LIGHT BATHES THE FUGITIVE LAUNCH!



GET THIS BOAT OUTA HERE!

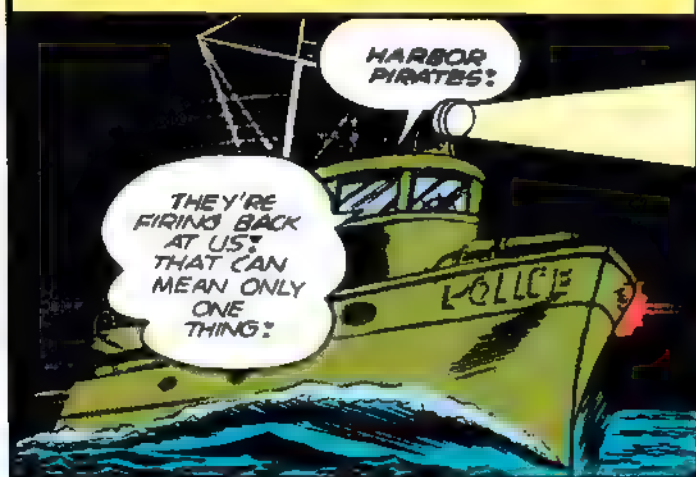


POLICE BOAT! THE COPS MUSTA HEARD THAT SHOT!



YOU-- OH-H!

AS THE WHINING SNARL OF THE POLICE SIREN BREAKS OUT FROM THE CRAFT, AN ANSWER COMES INSTANTLY - RED FLAMES STAB THROUGH THE BLACK NIGHT?



THE POLICE BOAT CLEAVES THROUGH THE SWIRLING WATERS, RAPIDLY CLOSING THE GAP BETWEEN THE TWO BOATS



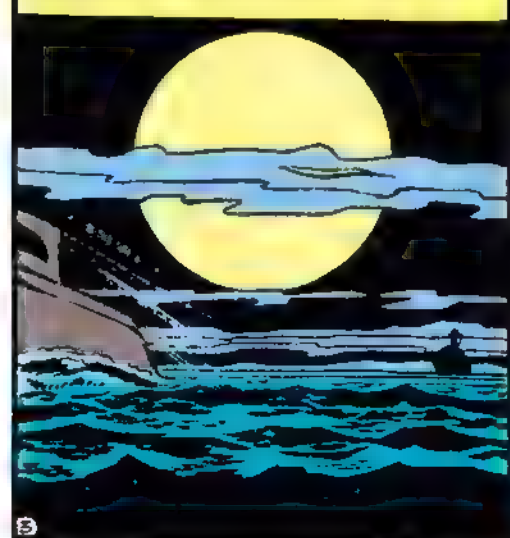
GET THAT LIGHT, SOMEBODY! THAT SEARCH-LIGHT? CAN'T SEE?



A HAIL OF LEAD SPRAYS THE POLICE SEARCHLIGHT?



WHILE THE POLICE REPLACE THE LIGHT WITH A NEW BULB, THE PIRATE LAUNCH ROARS AWAY!



THE POLICE DOODLEDLY PURSUE THE SPEEDING PIRATE LAUNCH--BUT WHEN THE NEW SEARCHLIGHT COVERS THE WATERS WITH DAYLIGHT BRILLIANCE, THE POLICE FIND--

IT'S GONE! THE PIRATE BOAT IS GONE!

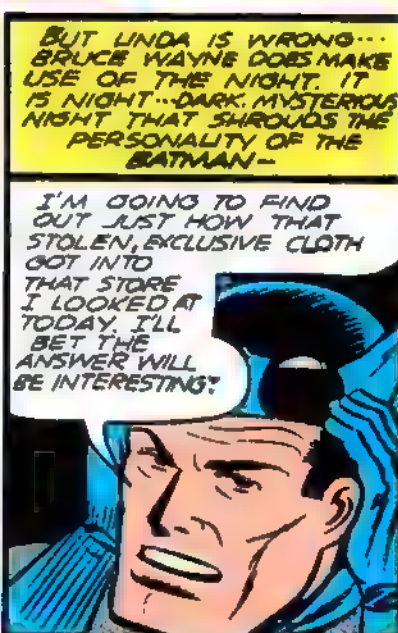
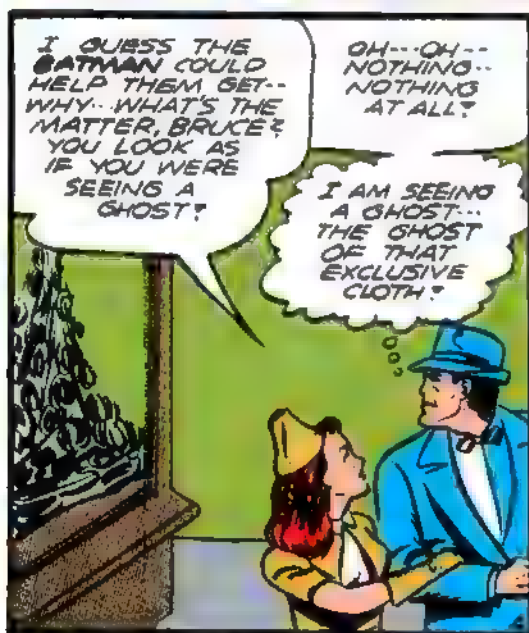
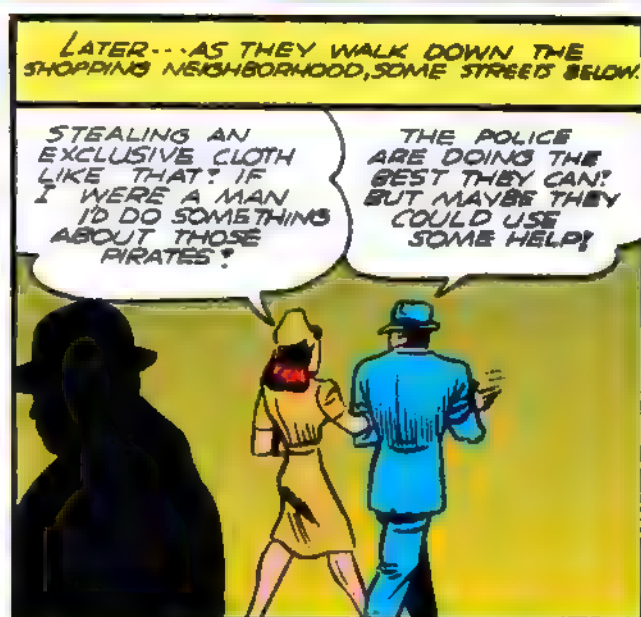


THE DAZZLING WHITE EYE OF THE SEARCHLIGHT LOOKS DOWN ON EMPTY WATERS??

WE WERE RIGHT BEHIND IT! WHERE COULD IT HAVE GONE?

BLAMED IF I KNOW! ALL I KNOW IS IT'S GONE! THAT BOAT SEEMS TO HAVE VANISHED AS IF IT WERE PLUCKED OUT OF THE WATERS BY A GIANT HAND!





① BATLIKE, HE FLITS THRU THE GLOOMY STREETS:



② HOW'S BUSINESS? FINE--- FINE--- OH-OH OH!



③ NOW TALK FASTER I'M LIKELY TO GET VERY IMPATIENT! WHO SOLD YOU THAT CLOTH YOU FEATURE IN YOUR WINDOW--- AND WHAT'S THE FIRM'S ADDRESS?

S-SURE--- A MAN FROM THE CONROY MERCHANDISE COMPANY SOLD IT TO ME THIS AFTERNOON. THEY HAVE A WAREHOUSE ON THE EAST PIER ON 46 STREET!



④ AFTER THE BATMAN LEAVES--

DEAR---DEAR! A MASKED MAN-- AND SUCH A QUEER COSTUME! PERHAPS HE'S A THIEF AND MEANS TO DO HARM TO MR. CONROY! I'D BETTER WARN HIM!



⑤ YES.... HE WAS MASKED! HAD A CAPE THAT LOOKED LIKE BATWINGS!



BATWINGS? THE BATMAN?

THANK YOU---AND I WOULDN'T CALL THE POLICE IF I WERE YOU! I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS CRIMINAL!



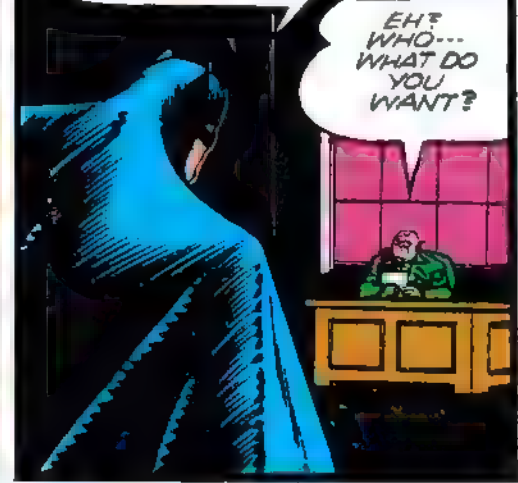
⑥ HOOK, THE BATMAN! HE'S ON HIS WAY OVER? WHAT WILL WE DO?

THE BATMAN, EH? LET HIM SHOW HIS FACE IN HERE, MAYBE WE'LL MUSS IT UP A LITTLE FOR 'IM. YE-AH?

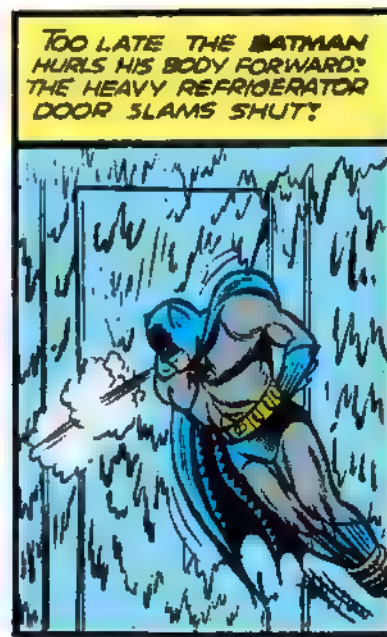
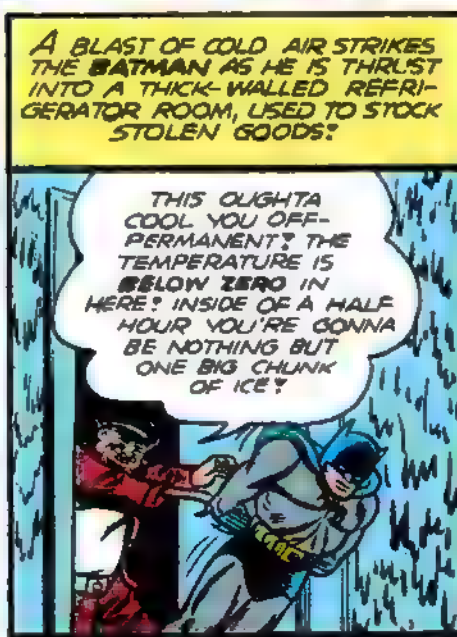
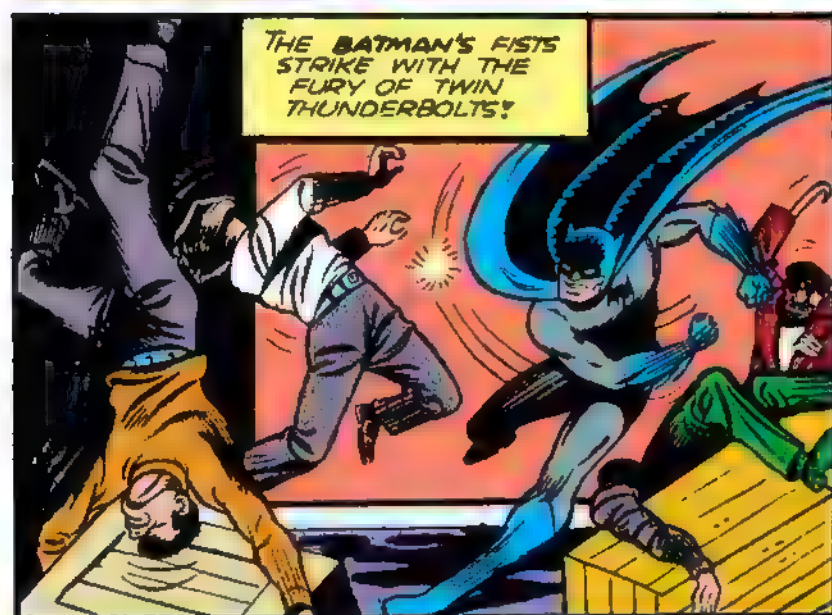
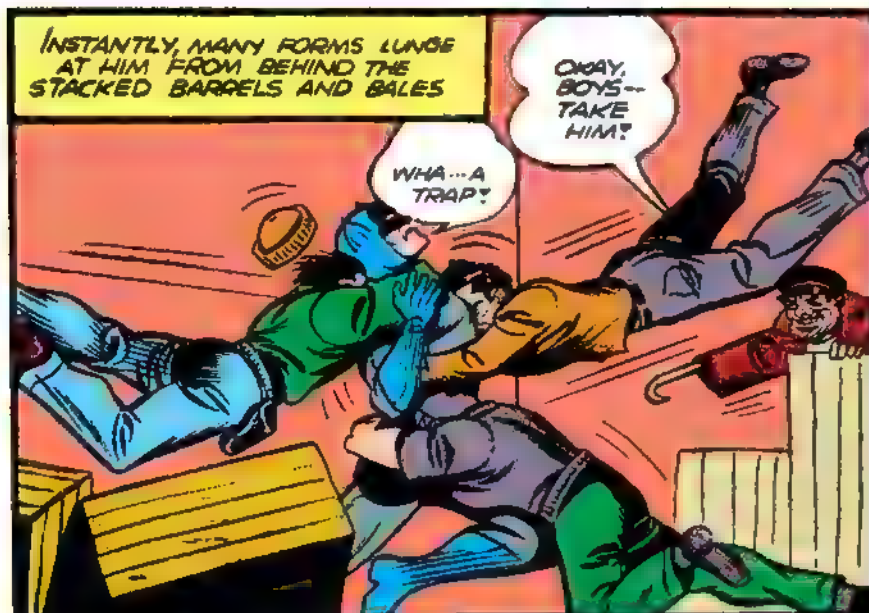


⑦ MINUTES LATER---

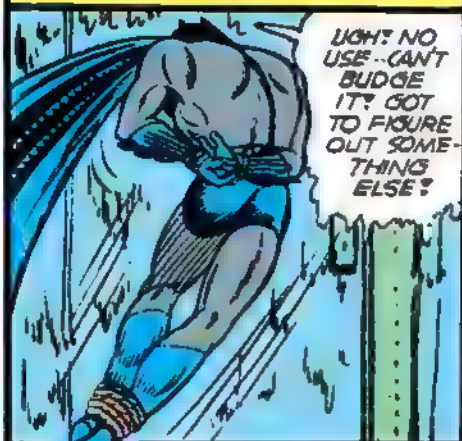
HELLO, MR. CONROY? WHAT'S NEW IN IMPORTED CLOTHS?



EH? WHO--- WHAT DO YOU WANT?

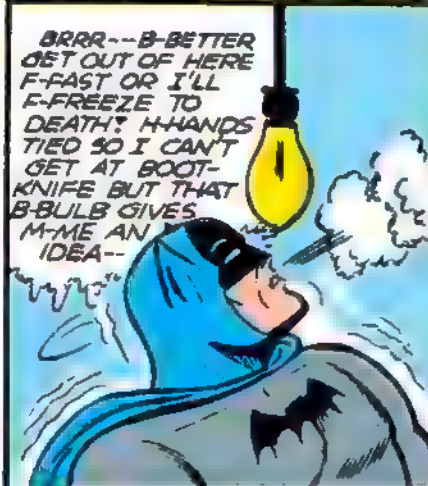


AGAIN THE BATMAN'S MUSCULAR FRAME POUNDS, BATTERS AT THE STEEL DOOR IN A FUTILE ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE FROM THE MANTLE OF COLD THAT WRAPS ABOUT HIM?



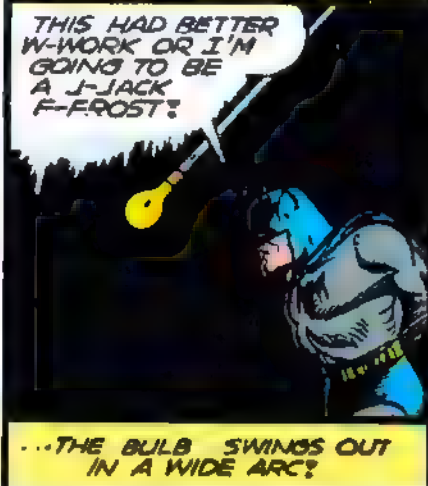
UGH? NO USE--CAN'T BUDGE IT? GOT TO FIGURE OUT SOMETHING ELSE?

THE BATMAN GROWS NUMB WITH COLD AS INVISIBLE ICE FINGERS TOUCH HIS SHIVERING BODY?



BRRR--B-BETTER GET OUT OF HERE F-FAST OR I'LL F-FREEZE TO DEATH? H-HANDS TIED SO I CAN'T GET AT BOOT-KNIFE BUT THAT B-BULB GIVES M-ME AN IDEA--

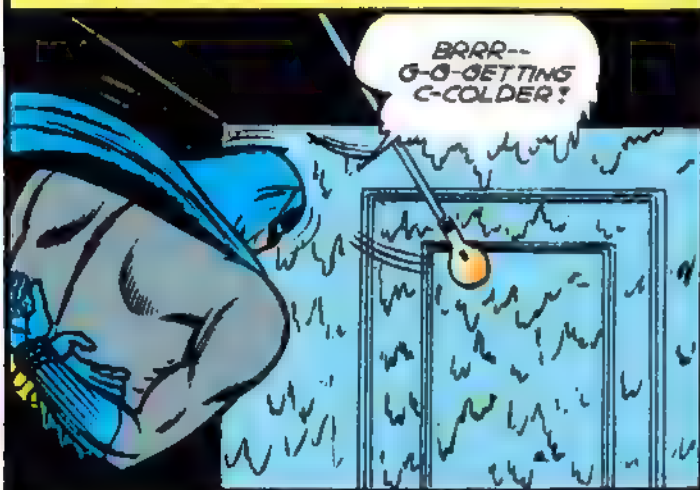
THE BATMAN BUTTS HIS HEAD AGAINST THE DANGLING LIGHT BULB---



THIS HAD BETTER W-WORK OR I'M GOING TO BE A J-JACK F-FROST?

...THE BULB SWINGS OUT IN A WIDE ARC?

AGAIN HE BUTTS AT IT--HARDER THIS TIME? IT SWINGS OUT FARTHER IN A WIDER SWEEPING ARC?

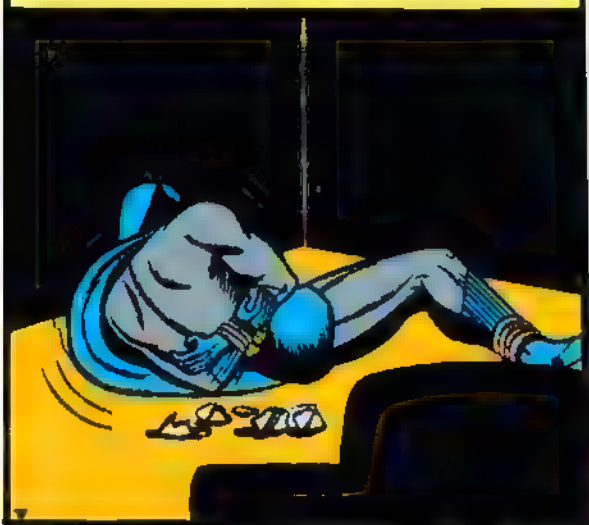


BRRR--G-G-GETTING C-COLDER?

ONE MORE JAB OF THE BATMAN'S HEAD AND THE BULB SWINGS OUT--OUT TILL IT SHATTERS AGAINST A REFRIGERATOR WALL?



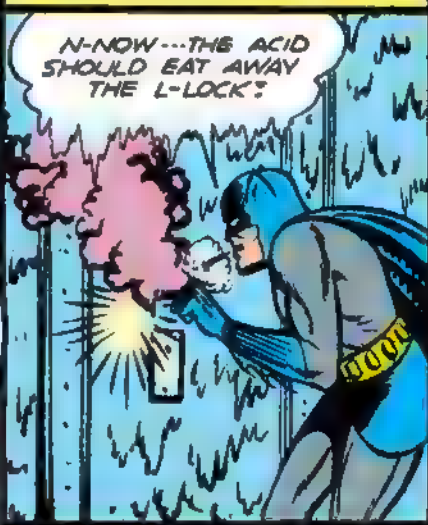
THE BATMAN LIES ON THE FLOOR, HIS HANDS PROBING FOR A JAGGED PIECE OF THE SMASHED GLASS BULB?



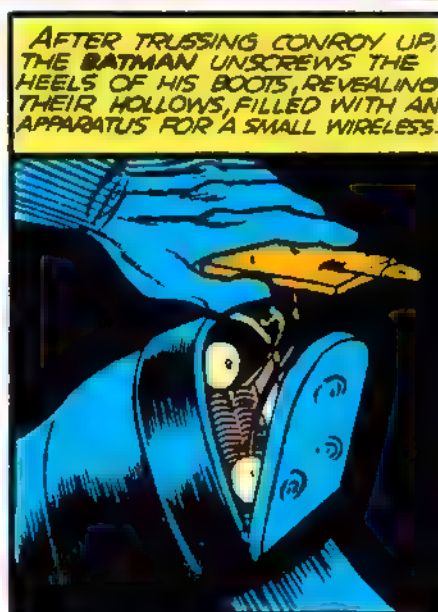
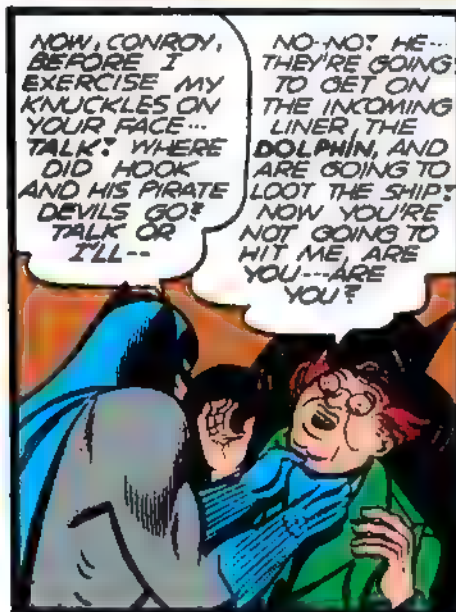
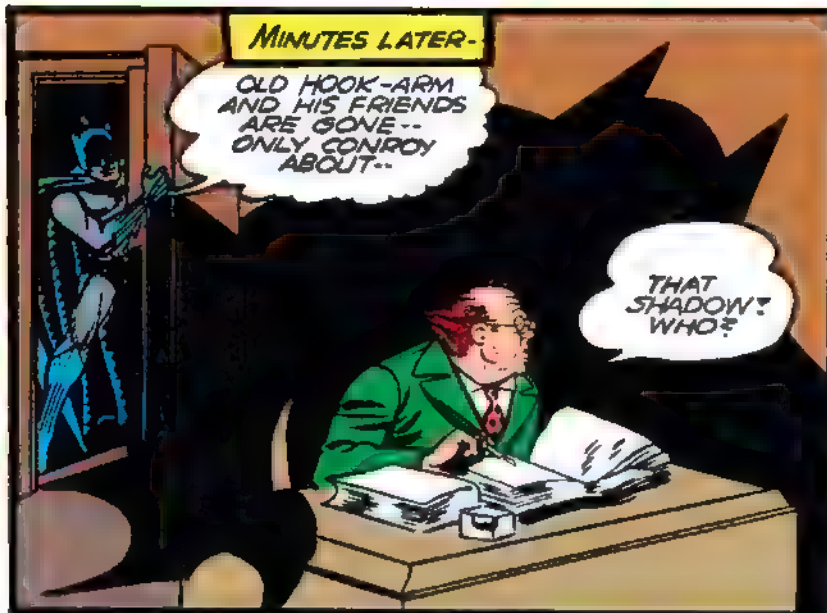
WITH THE RAZOR-SHARP SLIVER BETWEEN FINGERS ALMOST NUMB WITH COLD HE SAWES AWAY AT HIS BONDS--

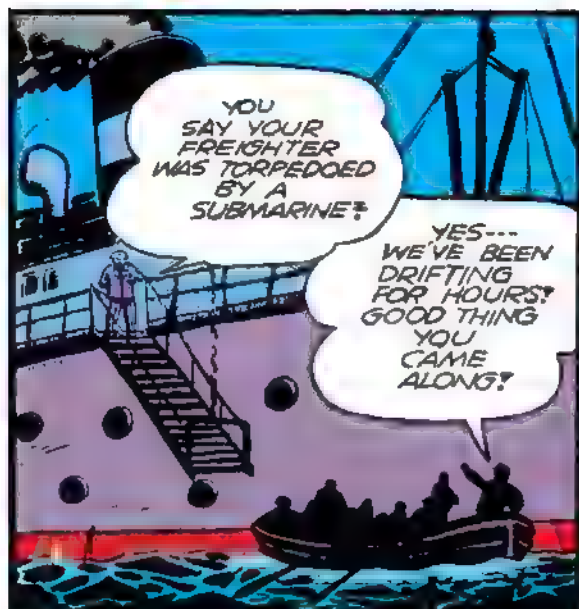


FREE? NOW THE BATMAN BRINGS FORTH A VIAL FROM HIS UTILITY BELT--



N-NOW--THE ACID SHOULD EAT AWAY THE L-LOCK?





YOU SAY YOUR FREIGHTER WAS TORPEDGED BY A SUBMARINE?

YES--- WE'VE BEEN DRIFTING FOR HOURS! GOOD THING YOU CAME ALONG!

BUT ONCE UPON THE DECK, THE "SURVIVORS" SUDDENLY WHIP EAGER HANDS INTO THEIR DUFFLE BAGS AND---

WHY-WHAT IS THIS?

THIS IS A STICKUP! NOW BE NICE OR ELSE THERE'S GONNA BE A LOT O' STIFFS LAYIN' AROUND!



WHY, YOU-- OH-H!

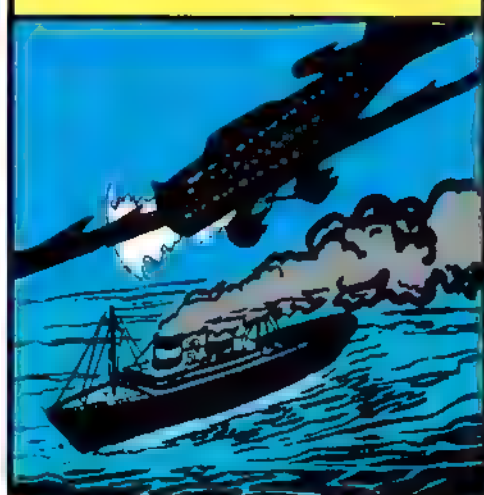
GET BACK IN LINE BEFORE I RIP YOUR HEAD OFF!



ANYBODY ELSE THAT TRIES ANYTHING GETS THE SAME KIND O' MEDICINE! OKAY, BOYS---TAKE WHAT'S IN THEIR POCKETS AND WHAT YOU SEE ON THIS TUB THAT'S WORTH ANYTHING!

OH, MY FACE-- MY FACE.

WHILE THE PIRATES TAKE OVER THE SHIP, A WEIRD CRAFT SWOOPS DOWN FROM THE BLACK SKY. IT IS THE BATPLANE!

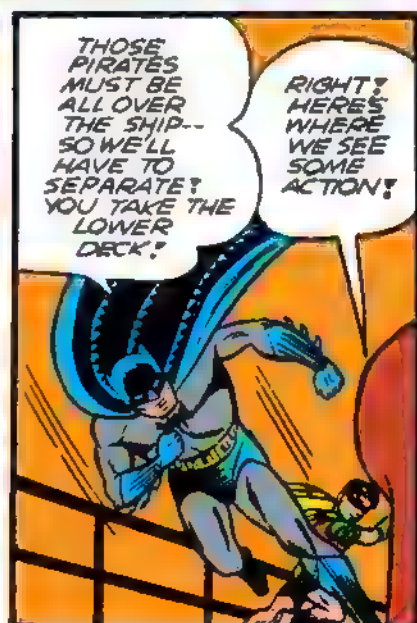
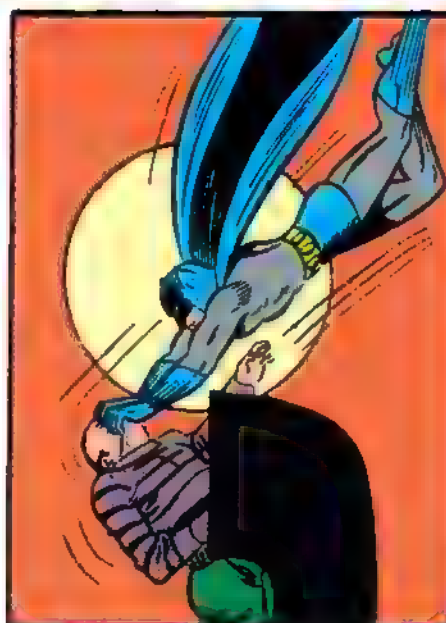


IT GLIDES NOISELESSLY OVER THE LINER AND HANGS THERE MOTIONLESS. TWO MANTLED FIGURES SLIP DOWN A DANGLING ROPE LADDER---



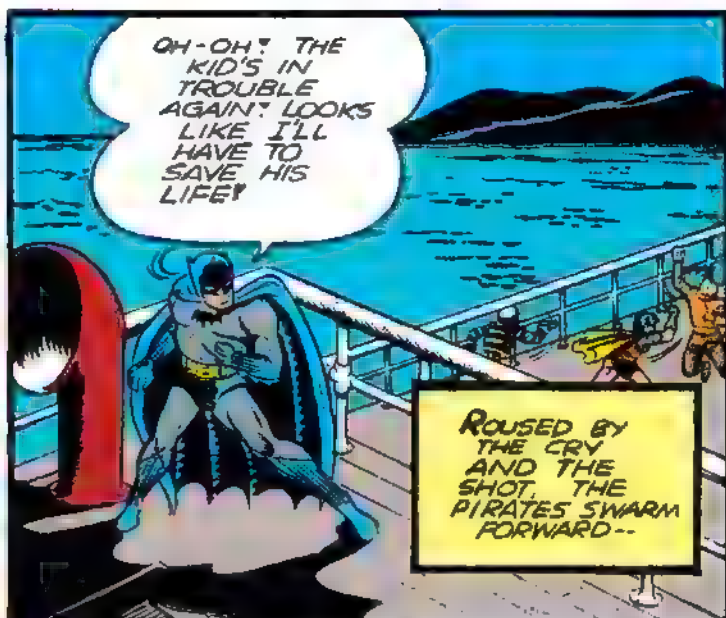
I SET THE ROBOT CONTROLS!

GOOD! NOW LET'S GET 'EM!

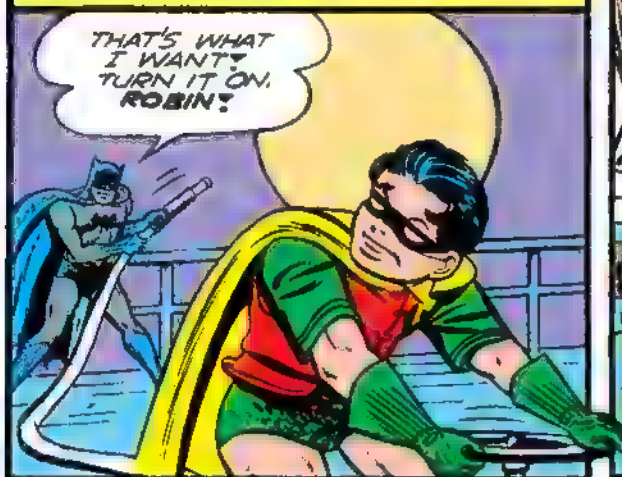


THOSE PIRATES MUST BE ALL OVER THE SHIP-- SO WE'LL HAVE TO SEPARATE! YOU TAKE THE LOWER DECK!

RIGHT! HERE'S WHERE WE SEE SOME ACTION!

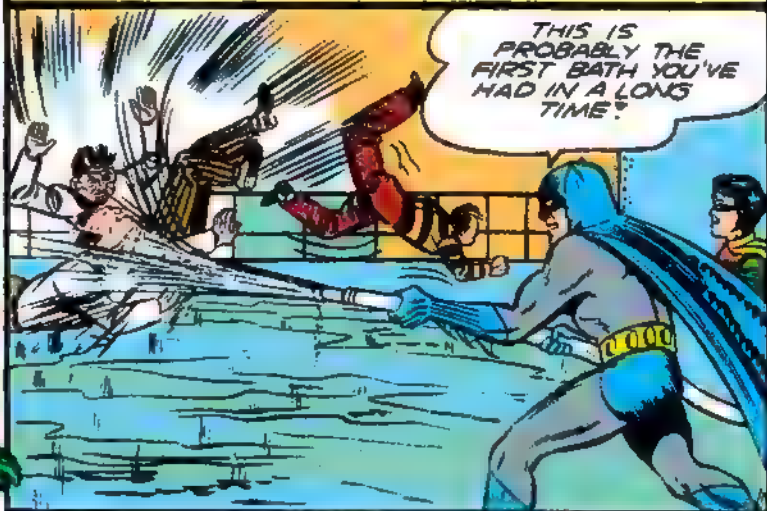


AS THE PIRATES SPILL DOWN IN A TANGLE OF WAVING ARMS AND LEGS, THE BATMAN LEAPS OVER THEM, HIS EYES FASTEN UPON A FALLEN DECK HOSE



THAT'S WHAT I WANT! TURN IT ON, ROBIN!

A VERITABLE NIAGARA ENGULFS THE PIRATES, SENDING THEM ROLLING OVER THE DECK LIKE TUMBLEWEED---



THIS IS PROBABLY THE FIRST BATH YOU'VE HAD IN A LONG TIME!

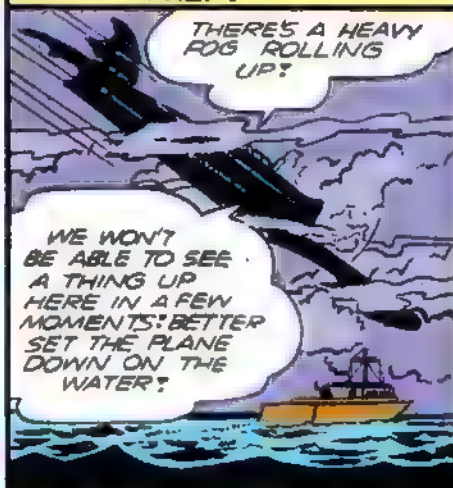
THE NOW HELPLESS PIRATES ARE HERDED TOGETHER BY THE SHIP'S CREW.



I DON'T SEE HOOK! HE MUST HAVE RUN OUT ON HIS MEN!

LOOK! THERE HE IS...SWIMMING TO THAT LAUNCH!

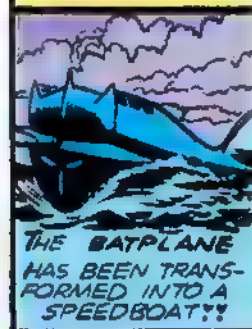
AS THE LAUNCH ROARS AWAY WITH HOOK, THE BATPLANE DARTS AFTER IT LIKE A PURSUING BIRD AFTER HIS PREY!



THERE'S A HEAVY FOG ROLLING UP!

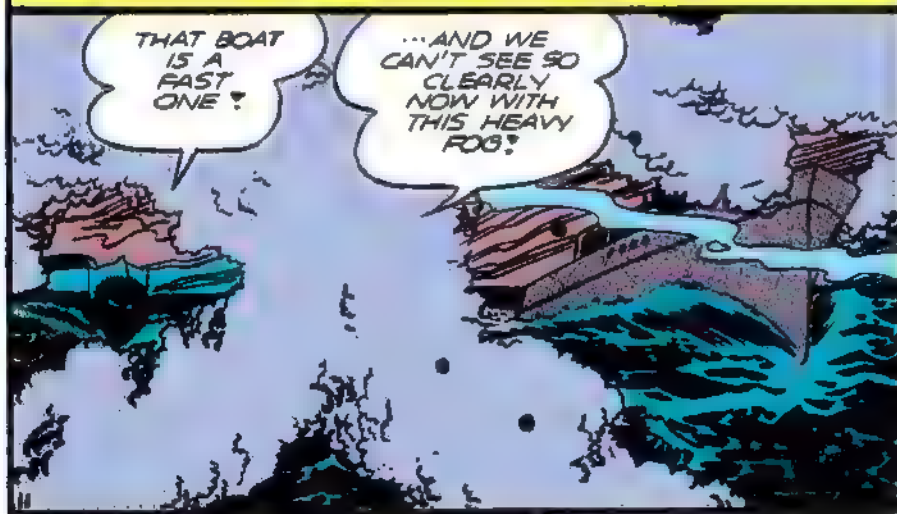
WE WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE A THING UP HERE IN A FEW MOMENTS! BETTER SET THE PLANE DOWN ON THE WATER!

AS THE BATPLANE HITS THE WATER, THE BATMAN PUSHES A BUTTON. MIRACULOUSLY, THE WHEELS ARE DRAWN IN... THE WINGS FOLD AGAINST THE SIDES--



THE BATPLANE HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO A SPEEDBOAT!

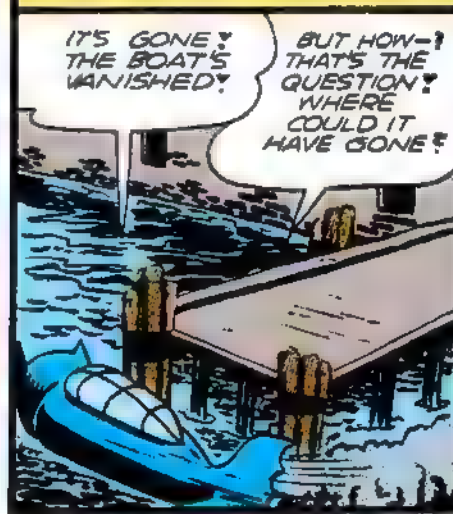
THE SHORE LINE BECOMES A BLUR AS THE BOATS FLASH PAST AT AMAZING SPEED! MILE AFTER MILE WHIPS BY--



THAT BOAT IS A FAST ONE!

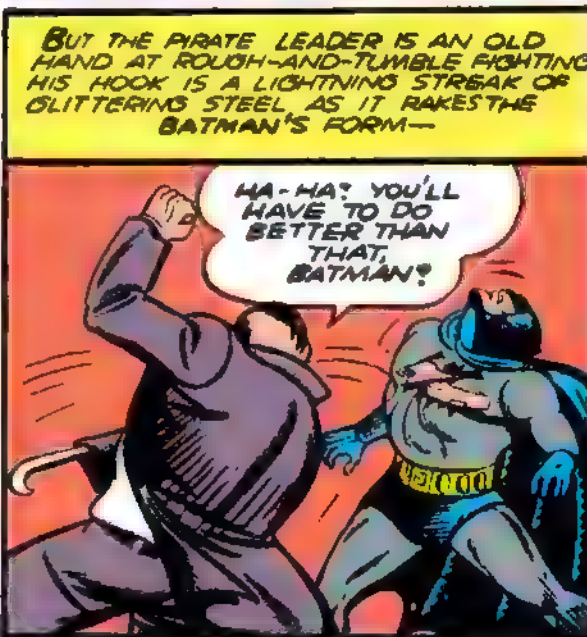
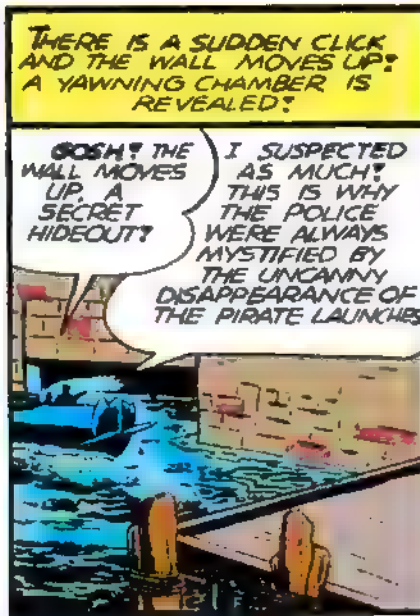
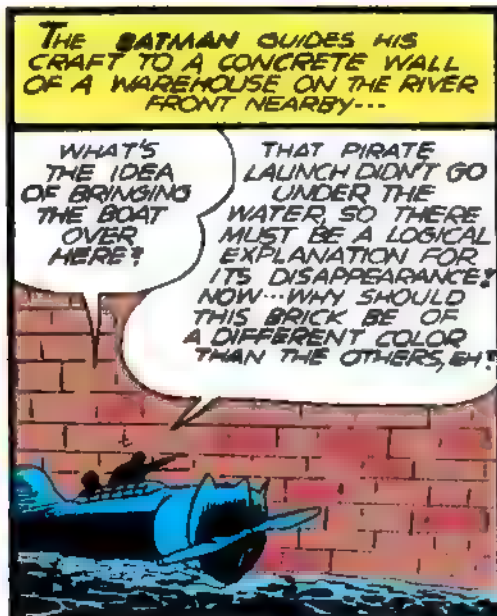
...AND WE CAN'T SEE SO CLEARLY NOW WITH THIS HEAVY FOG!

SUDDENLY, AS THE BATMAN'S BOAT TEARS AROUND A PIER, THE CRIME FIGHTER IS AMAZED TO FIND--

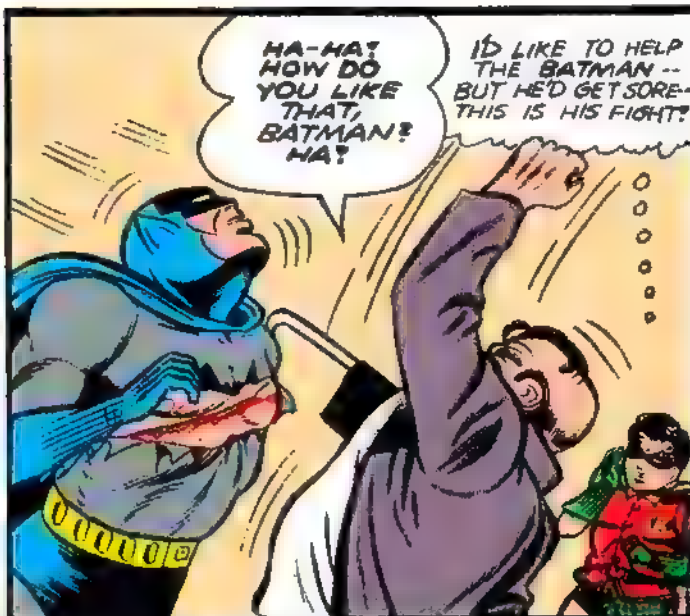
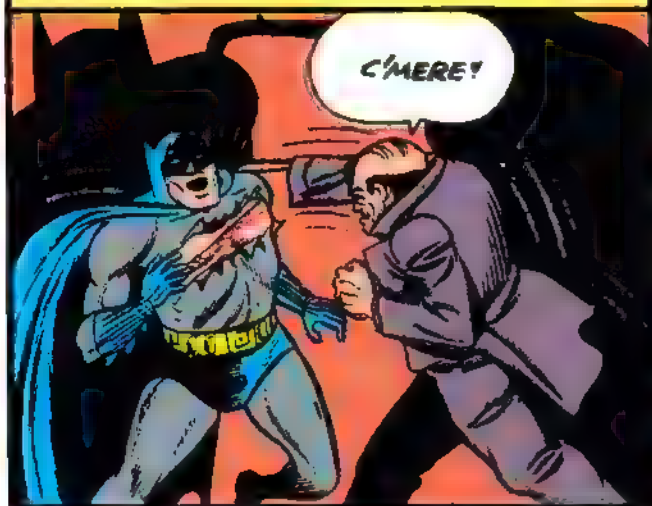


IT'S GONE! THE BOAT'S VANISHED!

BUT HOW? THAT'S THE QUESTION! WHERE COULD IT HAVE GONE?



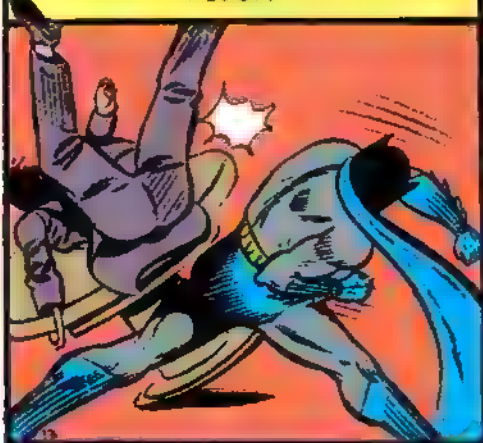
THE HOOK DIGS IN BACK OF THE BATMAN'S SHOULDER, AND HE IS DRAWN TOWARD THE LEERING PIRATE!



AS THE PIRATE TUGS AT THE HOOK THE BATMAN TEARS HIMSELF FREE FROM HIS IRON GRIP AND---



THE BATMAN BOUNDS FORWARD WITH THE EASY GRACE OF A GREAT CAT: HIS FIST WHISTLES THRU THE AIR ---- CRACK! AND THE HARBOR PIRATE FLIES BACK INTO A SPRAWLING UNCONSCIOUS MASS UPON THE FLOOR---



WOW! THAT WAS A FIGHT!

DON'T I KNOW IT? WHEW! JUST LET ME CATCH MY BREATH A MINUTE AND WE'LL BE ON OUR WAY! THE COPS WILL BE PLENTY INTERESTED IN KNOWING THAT THIS IS THE END OF THE HARBOR PIRATES!



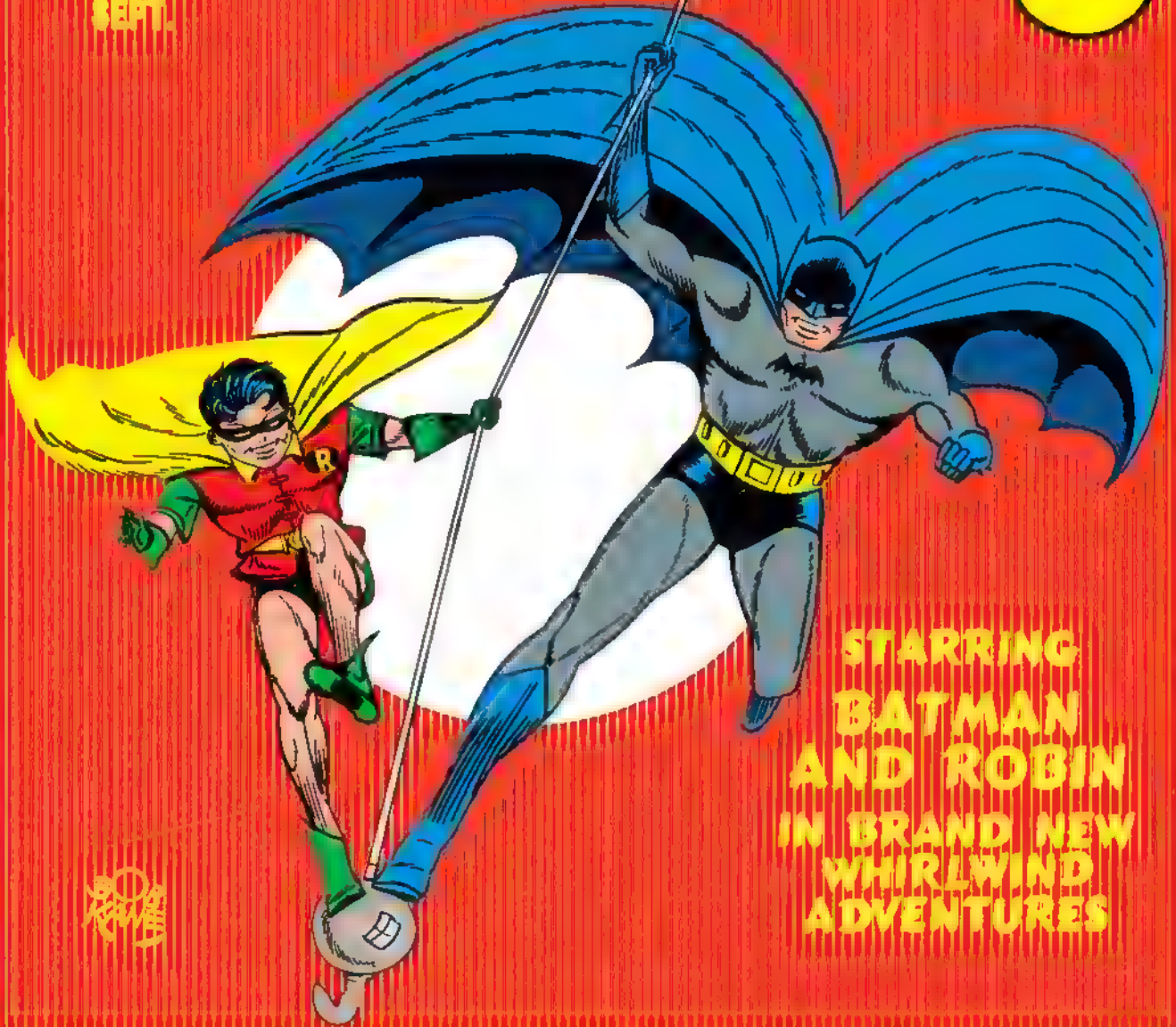
No. 6



BATMAN

NEIL G. & PAT. OFF.

AUGUST
SEPT.



STARRING
BATMAN
AND ROBIN
IN BRAND NEW
WHIRLWIND
ADVENTURES

DO
REVE

BAT MAN

WITH
Robin
-THE BOY WONDER-

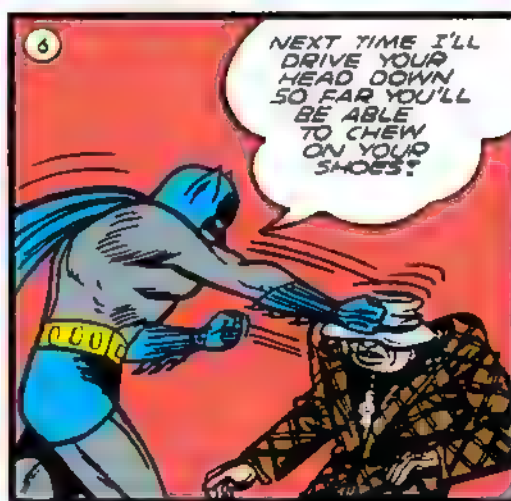
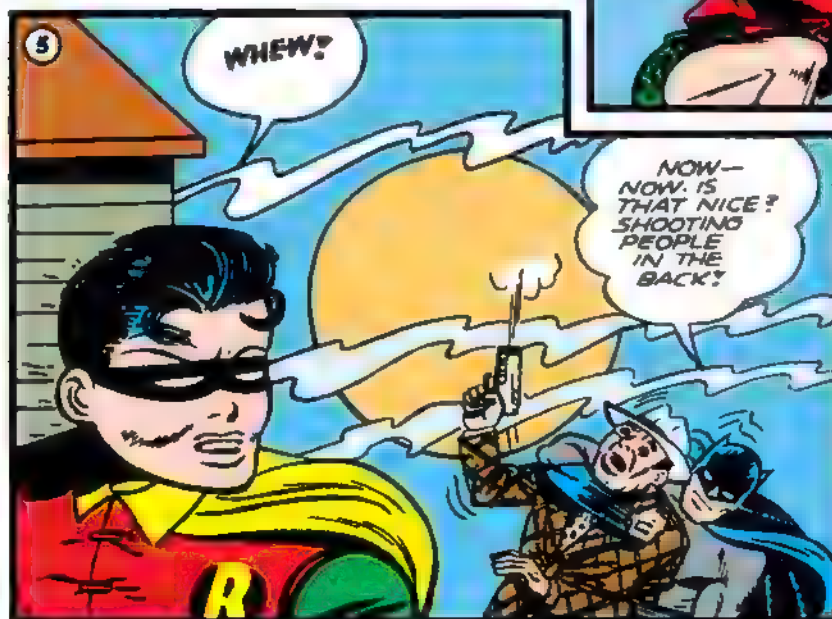
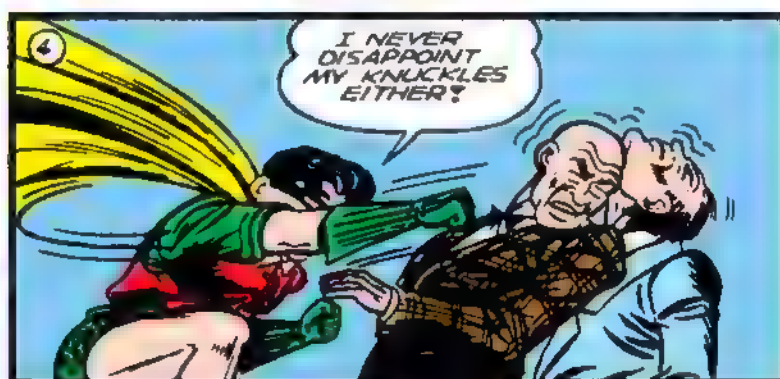
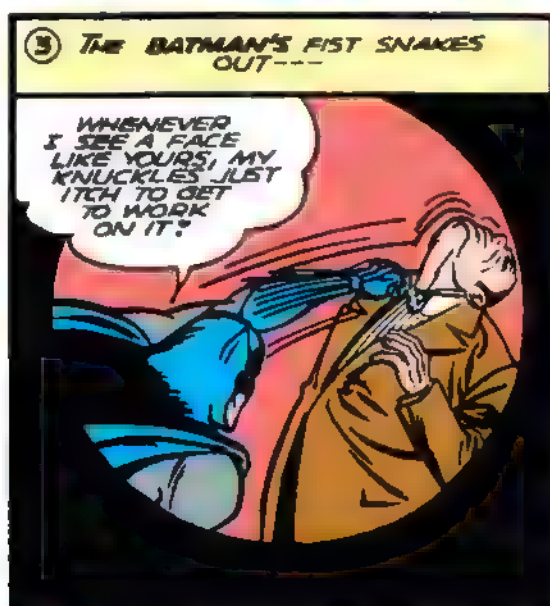
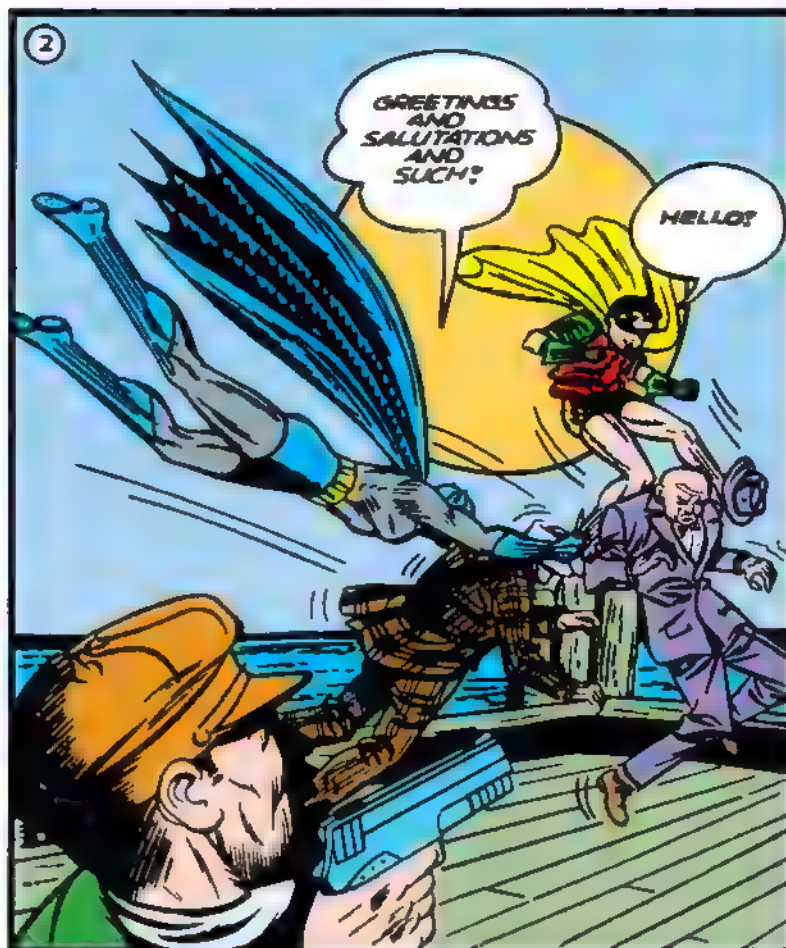
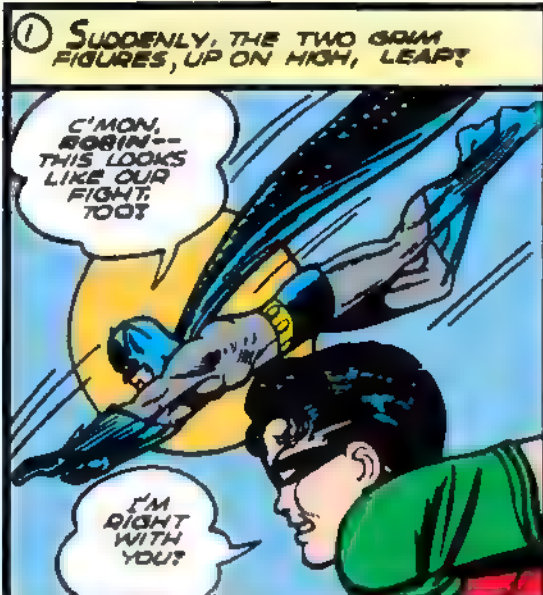
BY
BOB
KANE

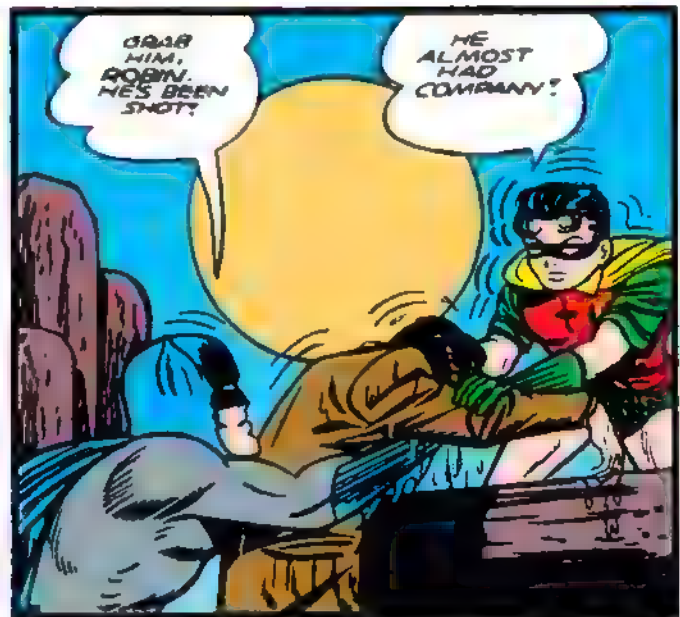
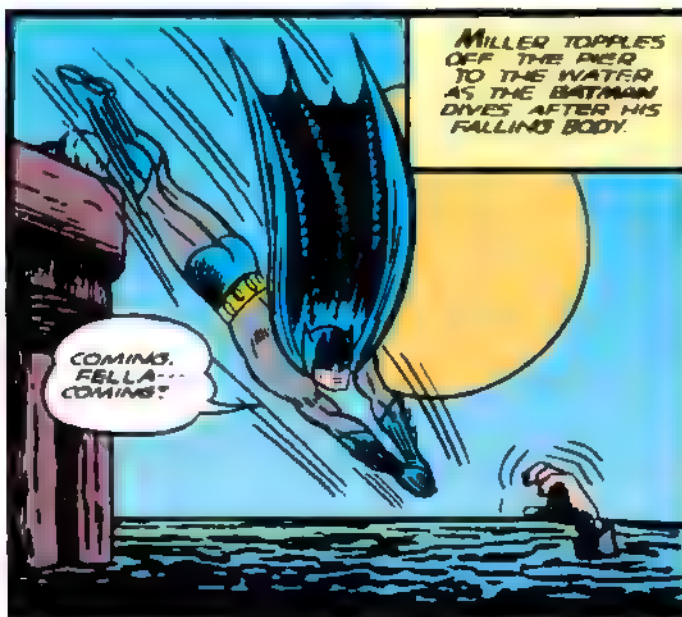
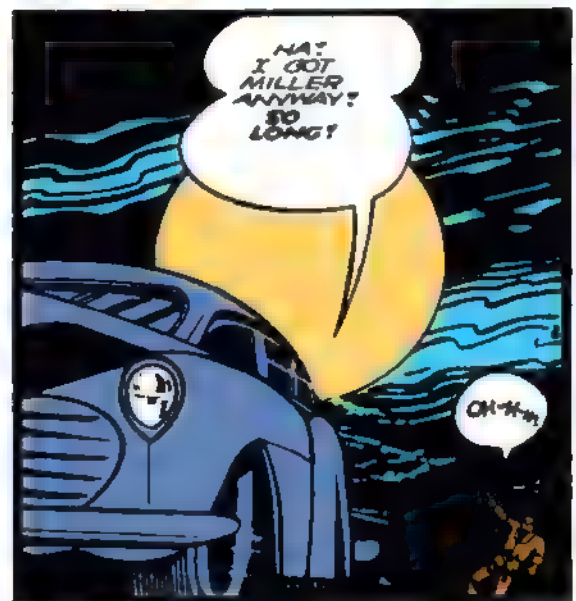
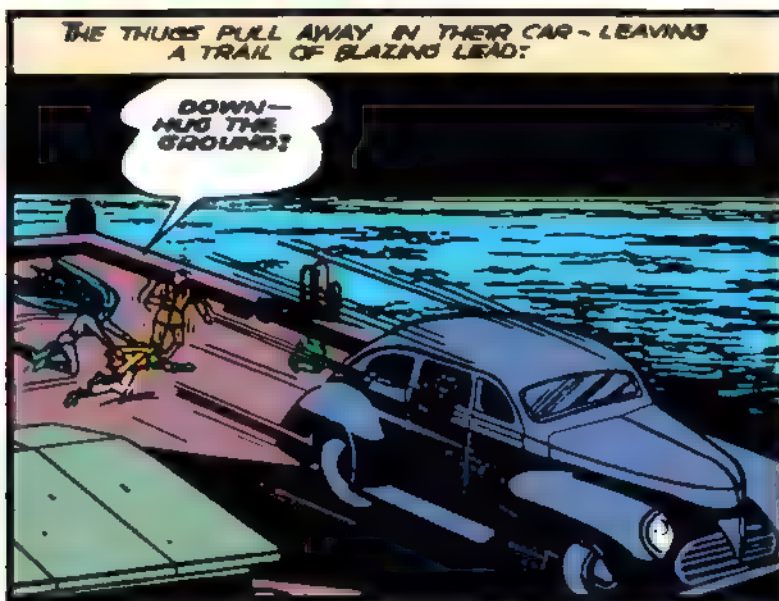
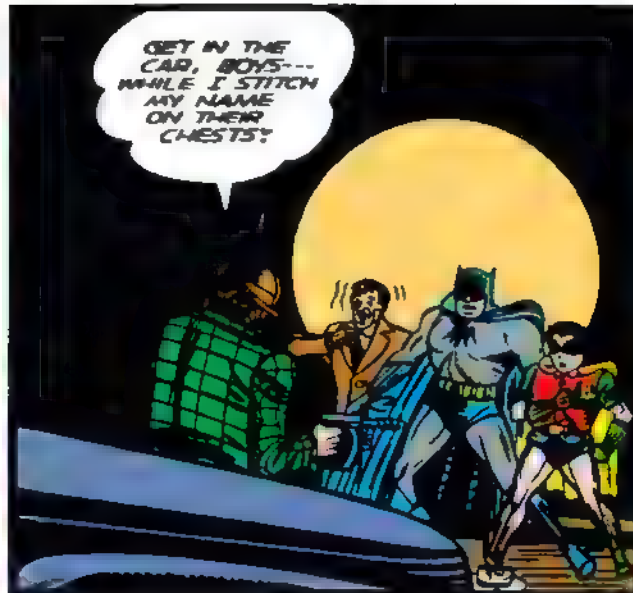
WHEN A MASTER OF EVIL TRIES
TO MAKE A MOCKERY OF THE LAW,
TWO RASH MORTALS DARE TO VENTURE
INTO CRIME'S DOMAIN TO SEEK OUT ITS
HIDDEN CHIEF --- TWO BRAVE HUMANS, TWIN
FIGHTERS FOR JUSTICE --- THE BATMAN AND
ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER! THEY FOLLOW THEM
NOW AS A TRAIL OF CRIME AS THEY DRAW
INTO A LAIR THAT HIDES THE REAL TRUTH OF ---
ASIDE THE VEIL THAT HIDES THE REAL TRUTH OF ---
♦MURDER ON PAROLE.♦

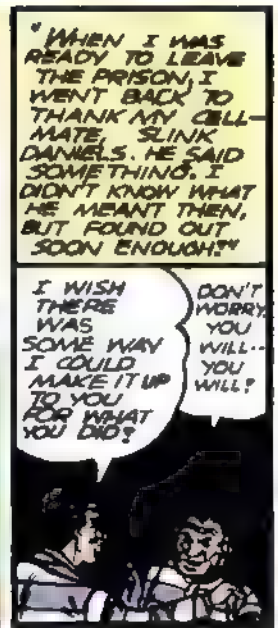
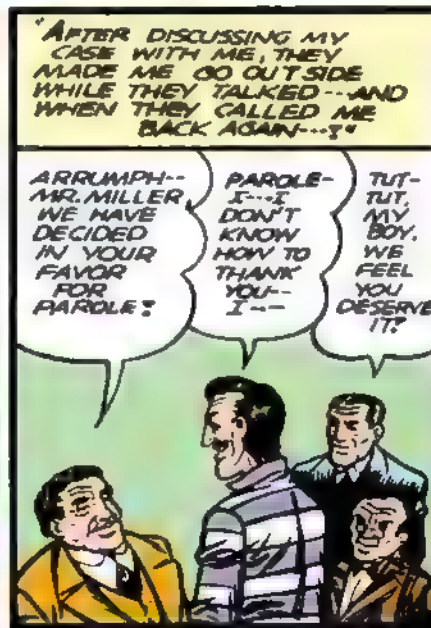
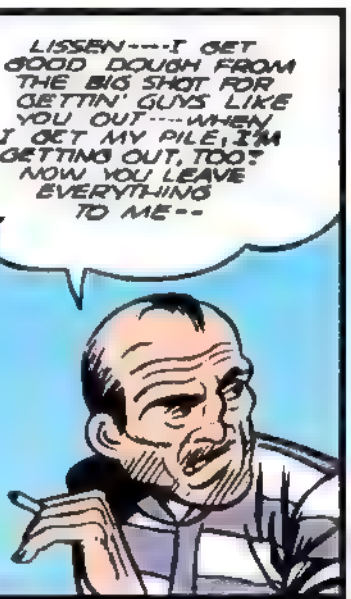
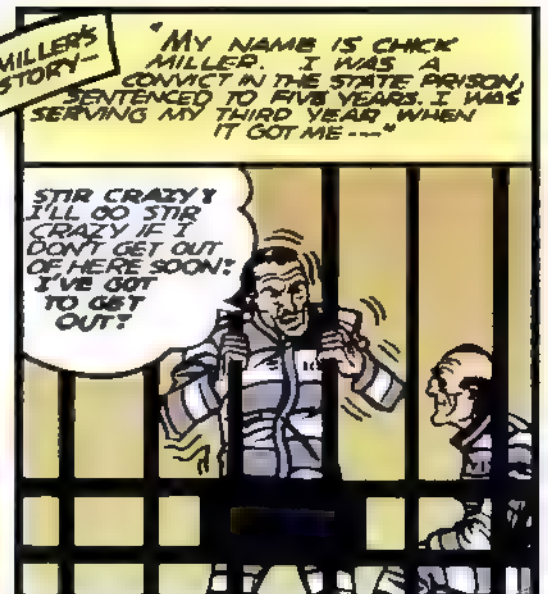
NIGHT FALLS...A BLANKET
OF DARKNESS AND MYSTERY.
HIGH OVER THE GLOOMY
WATERFRONT, TWO
COSTUMED FIGURES STAND
POISED AND VIEW A GRIM
SCENE ---

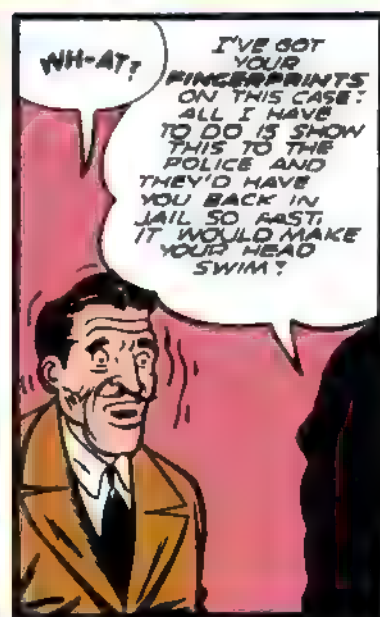
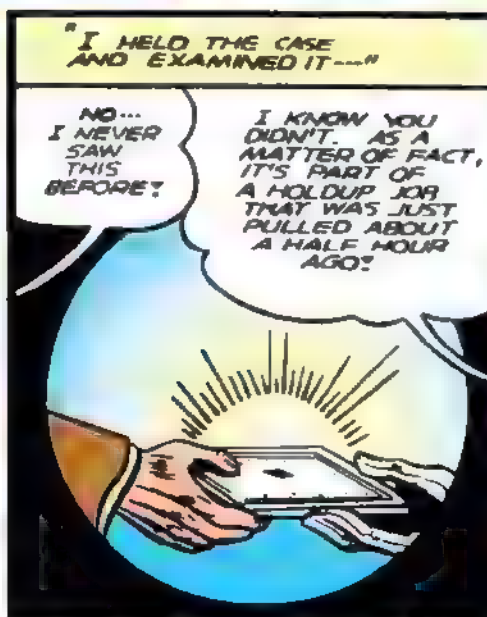
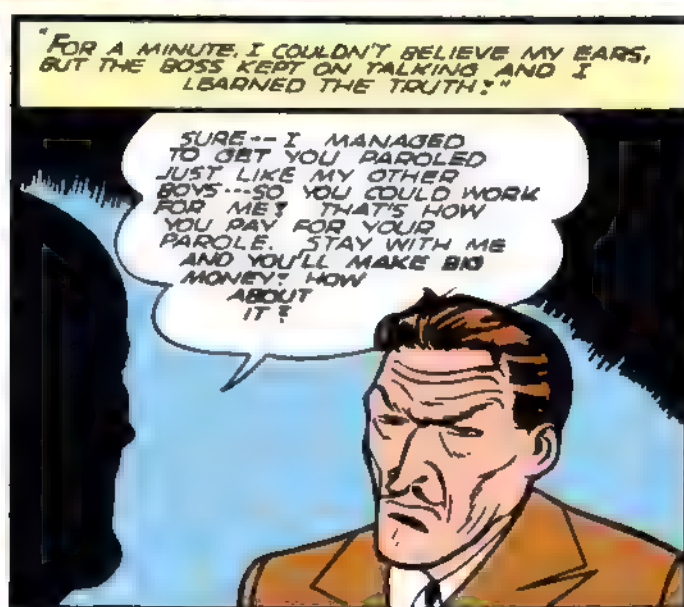
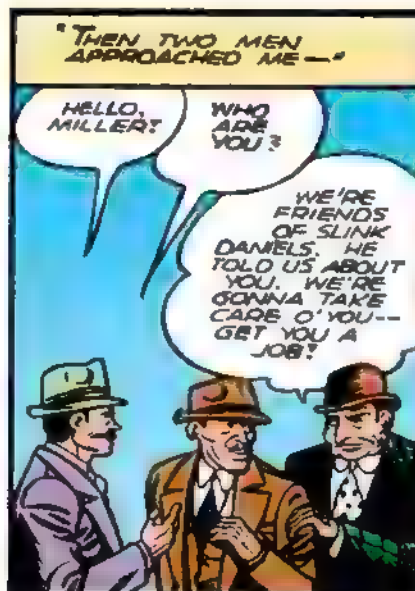
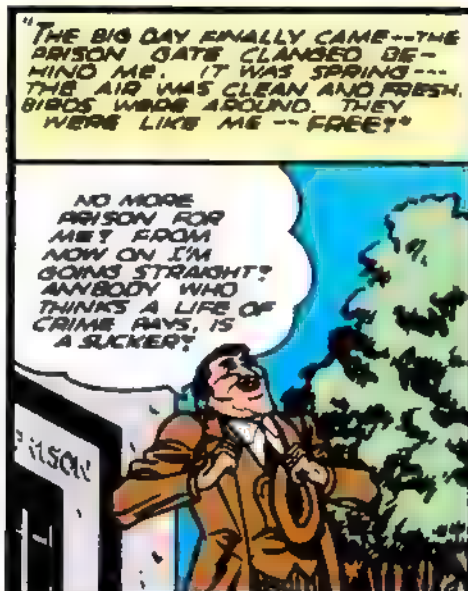
OKAY,
SHOULDERS--
IF YOU'RE
GOING TO KILL
ME, YOU MIGHT
AS WELL
GET IT
OVER
WITH?

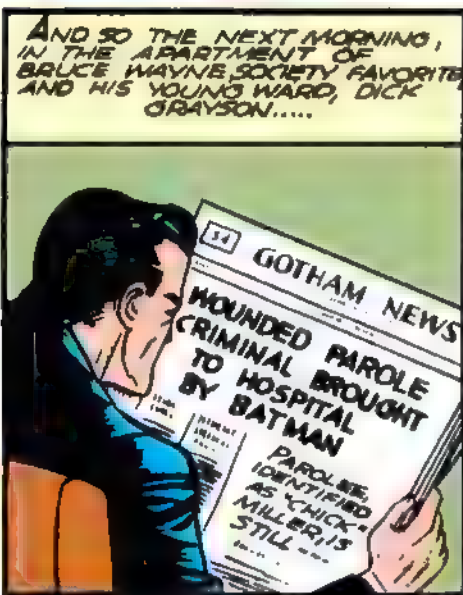
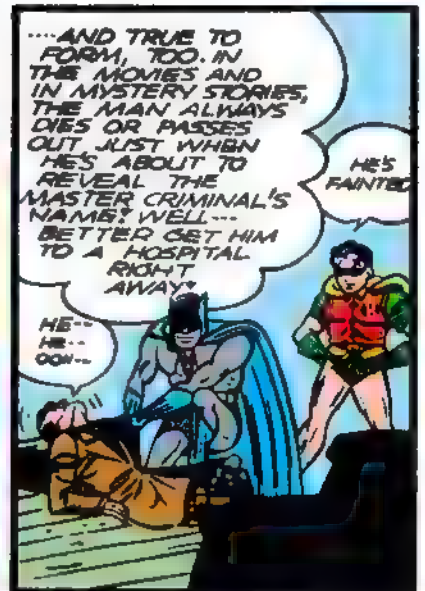
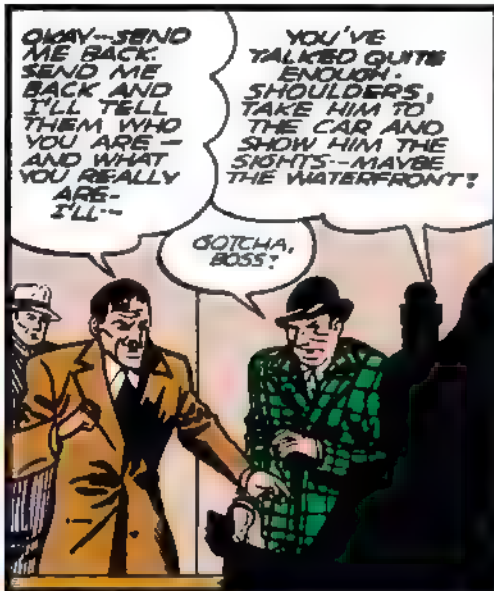
YOU MUST
BE AWFUL
ANXIOUS TO
DIE, MILLER--
SO I WON'T
DISAPPOINT
YA--HERE
IT COMES!







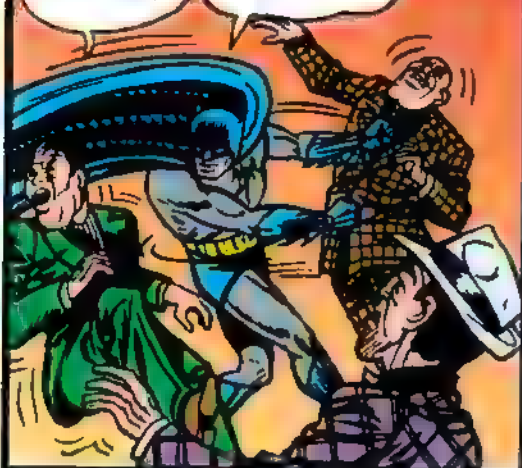




AN AVALANCHE OF FIST DESCENDS UPON THE THUGS!

THE BATMAN?

IN PERSON?



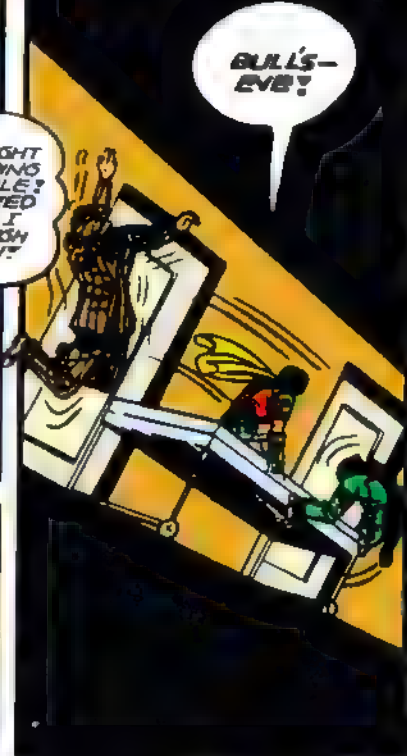
AS THE THUGS SUDDENLY SURGE TOWARD THEIR DREADED NEMESIS, AN OPERATING TABLE BEARS DOWN ON THEM--AND ABOARD IT IS--

ROBIN-- IT'S THAT ROBIN KID?

THOUGHT I'D BRING THE TABLE! YOU'LL NEED IT AFTER I GET THROUGH WITH YOU!



BULL'S-EYE!



REINFORCEMENTS RUSH THE TWIN BATTLERS!

GET THEM!

SLUG 'EM!



DRAWN BY SHOUTS AND SHOTS, POLICE SWARM TOWARD THE MAKESHIFT BATTLE FIELD!

HALT, OR WE'LL FIRE!

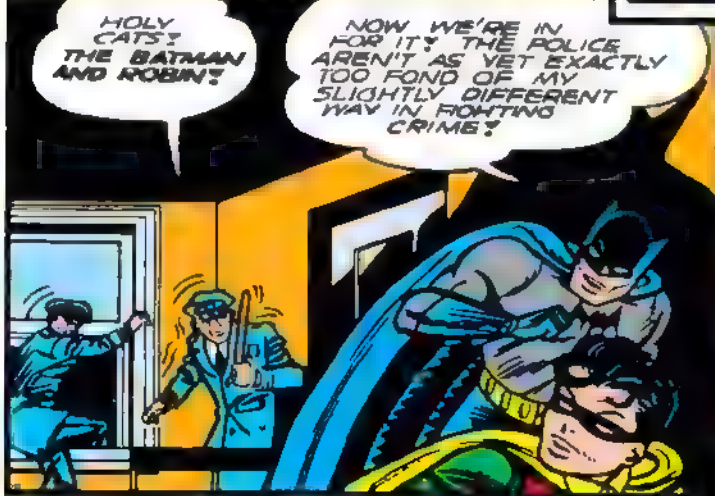


COPPERST, LET'S ALL LAM OUTA HERE! DOWN THE FIRE ESCAPE!

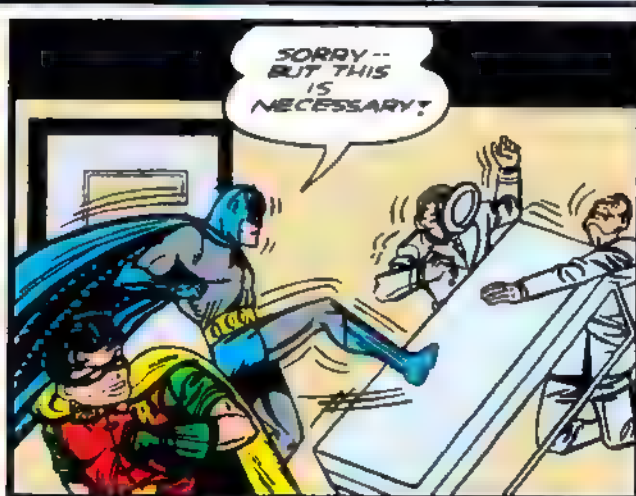
AS THE POLICE GIVE FUTILE CHASE TO THE FLEEING THUGS, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN FIND THEMSELVES IN A TIGHT SPOT!

HOLY CATS! THE BATMAN AND ROBIN?

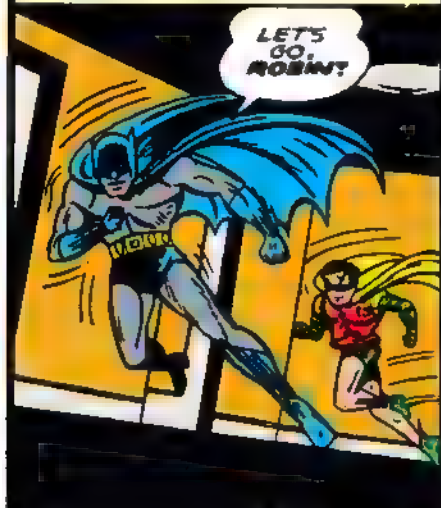
NOW WE'RE IN FOR IT! THE POLICE AREN'T AS YET EXACTLY TOO FOND OF MY SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT WAY IN FIGHTING CRIME!



SORRY-- BUT THIS IS NECESSARY!



LIKE TWO FLEET DEER,
THEY RACE DOWN THE
LONG CORRIDOR!

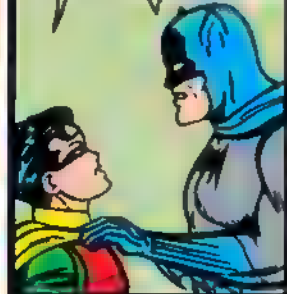


LET'S
GO, ROBIN!

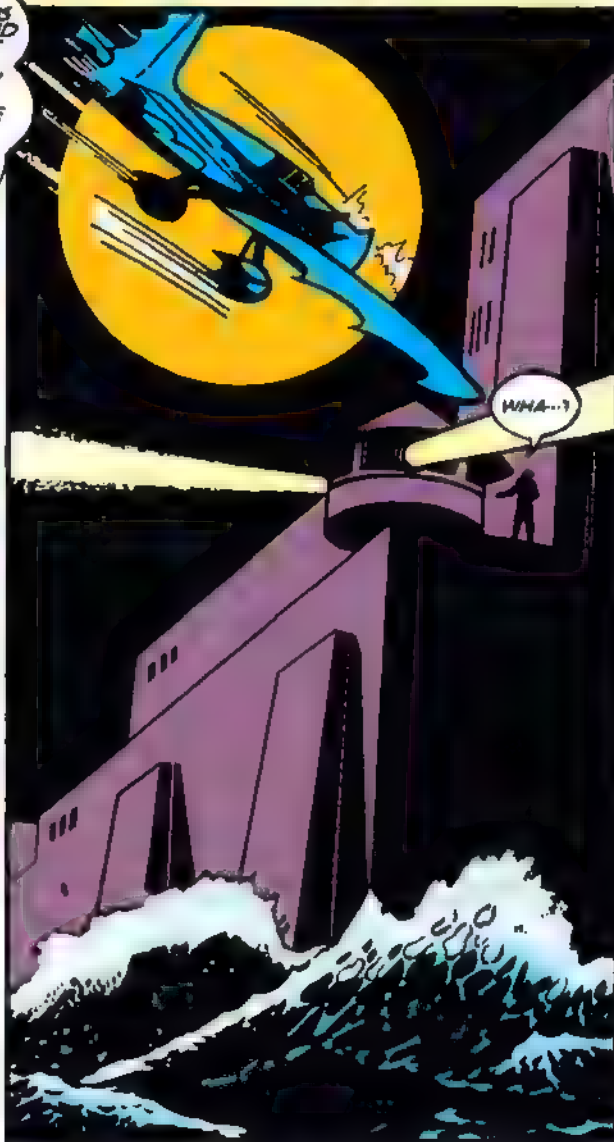
LATER--

WELL--
WE GOT
AWAY FROM
THE
POLICE,
BUT SO
DID THE
GUN-
MEN!

THEIR
MYSTERIOUS
BOSS ACTED
FIRST, BUT
NOW IT'S
MY TURN!
HERE'S
WHERE THE
BATMAN
GOES TO
TOWN!

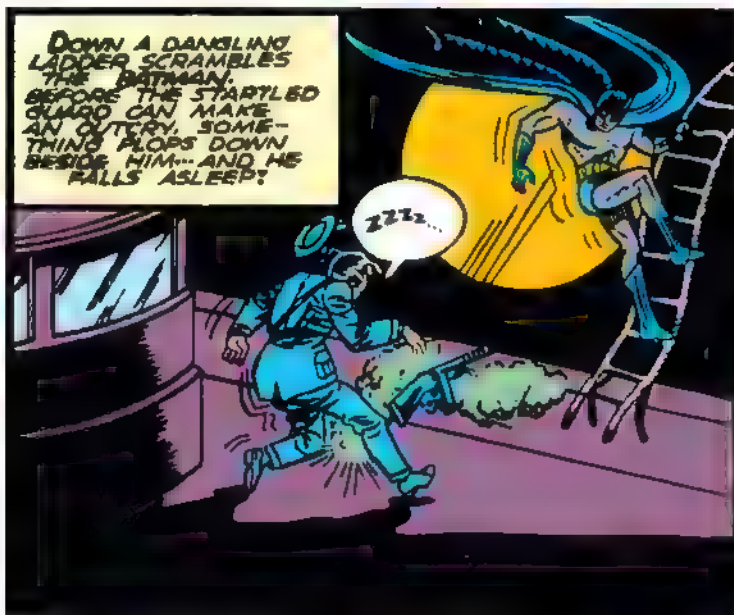


THAT NIGHT--...WINGING SILENTLY
OVER THE STATE PRISON IS A CRAFT
OF WEIRD DESIGN--THE BATPLANE!



WHA...?

DOWN A DANGLING
LADDER SCRAMBLES
THE BATMAN.
BEFORE THE STARTLED
GUARD CAN MAKE
AN OUTCRY, SOME-
THING FLOPS DOWN
BEHIND HIM--AND HE
FALLS ASLEEP!



ZZZZ...

THROUGH THE
PRISON HE DARTS,
HURLING THE
HARMLESS SLEEP-
INDUCING CAPSULES.



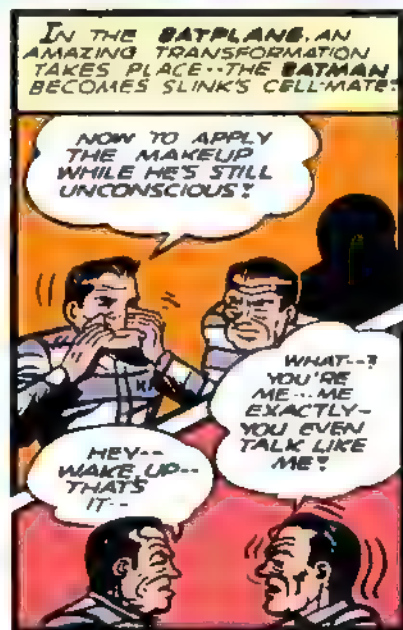
BATMAN...
BA...
AAAH...
SO SLEEPY
ZZZZ...

CAPSULES PLOP INTO
SLINK'S CELL WHILE
HE SLEEPS!



NOW TO
TAKE HIS
CELL-MATE
TO THE
BATPLANET

IN THE BATPLANE, AN
AMAZING TRANSFORMATION
TAKES PLACE--THE BATMAN
BECOMES SLINK'S CELL-MATE!



NOW TO APPLY
THE MAKEUP
WHILE HE'S STILL
UNCONSCIOUS!

WHAT...?
YOU'RE
ME...ME
EXACTLY--
YOU EVEN
TALK LIKE
ME?

HEY--
WAKE UP--
THAT'S
IT--

IT IS THE BATMAN WHO BECOMES SLINK'S CELLMATE AND BEGINS HIS GREAT IMPERSONATION--

THIS CELL IS DRIVIN' ME NUTS! I'M GONNA MAKE A BREAK FOR IT!

I GOT A BETTER WAY TO SPRING YOU, MARTY! HOW ABOUT A PAROLE?



AND SO IT IS NOT LONG AFTER THE BATMAN IS FREED BY THE PAROLE BOARD?

ARRUMPH-- MARTY LODEN, WE HAVE DECIDED IN YOUR FAVOR!

YOU ARE A FREE MAN!

WHICH... WHICH ONE OF THESE MEN IS THE "BOSS"?



AND THE BOYS MEET "MARTY LODEN" AND TAKE HIM TO THE "BOSS"--

HIM?

SURE... SURE... YOU GOT ME OUT. SURE I'LL WORK WITH YOUR MOB!

YOU'RE A SENSIBLE FELLOW, MARTY! YOU CAN START TO WORK!



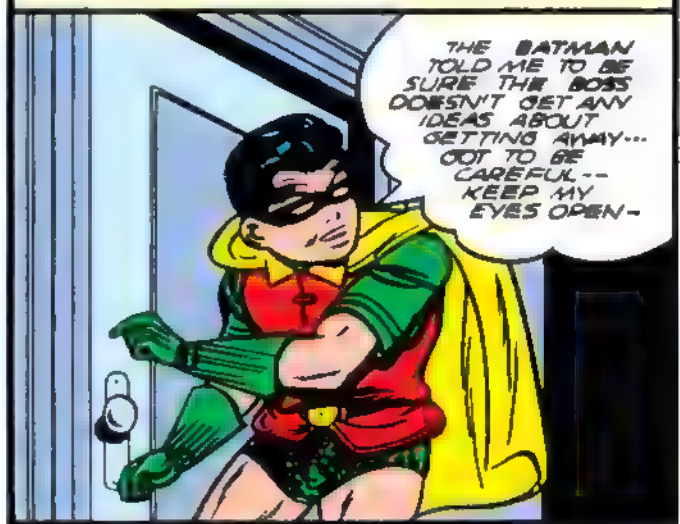
THE BOSS?

I'M SENDING THE BOYS OUT TO ROB A WAREHOUSE OF SILKS TONIGHT! YOU CAN GO ALONG!



THAT NIGHT, ROBIN TAKES HIS STAND BY THE BOSS'S ROOM--

THE BATMAN TOLD ME TO BE SURE THE BOSS DOESN'T GET ANY IDEAS ABOUT GETTING AWAY... GOT TO BE CAREFUL-- KEEP MY EYES OPEN--

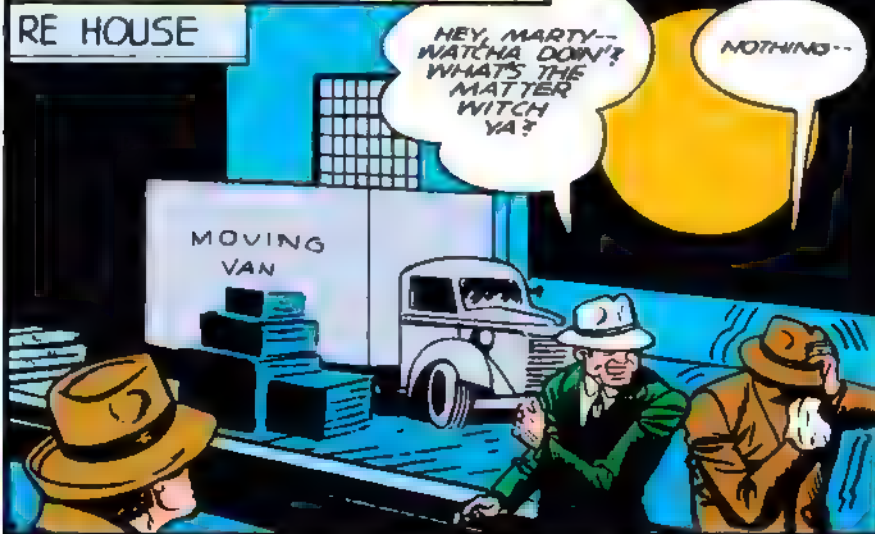


AND ON THE WATERFRONT, CLOAKED IN THE INK OF MID-NIGHT, THIEVES LOOT A WAREHOUSE--

RE HOUSE

HEY, MARTY-- WATCHA DOIN'? WHAT'S THE MATTER WITCH YA?

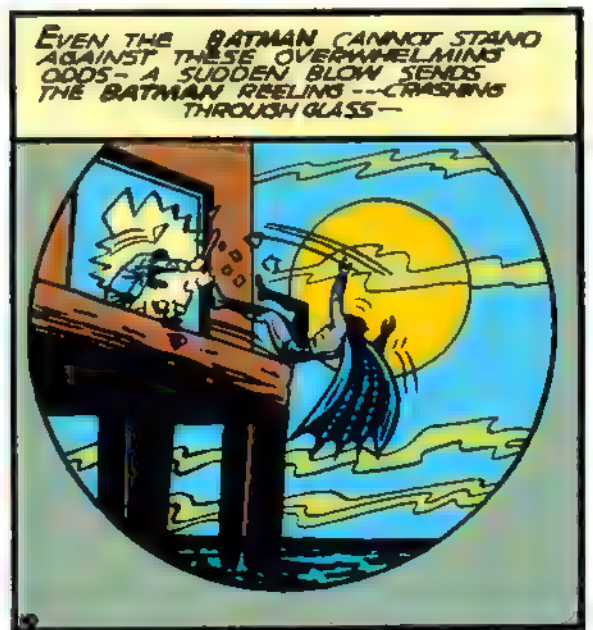
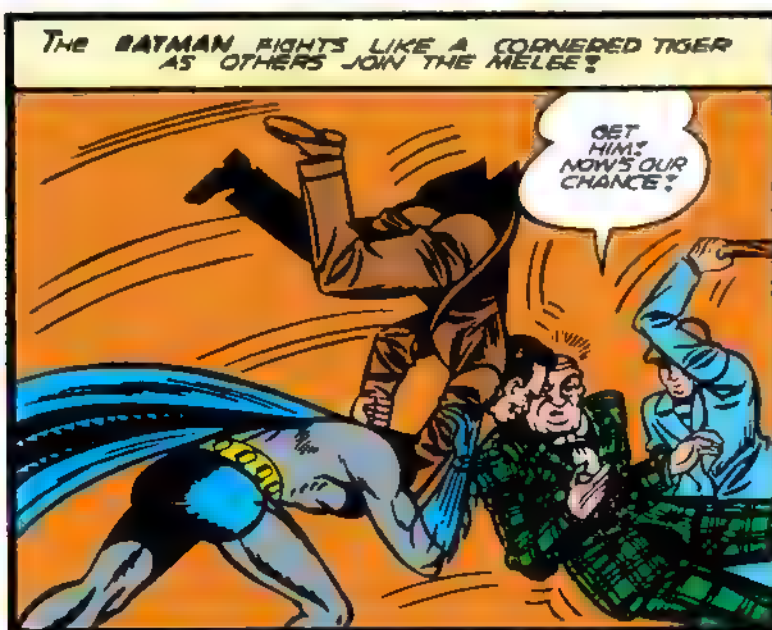
NOTHING--



MARTY, THE GANGSTER, WIPES THE MAKEUP FROM HIS FACE, RIPS OFF HIS CLOTHING AND STANDING IN HIS PLACE IS--

THE BATMAN? UGH?





MINUTES PASS---

HE AIN'T COME UP YET? THAT GUY'S DONE FOR GOOD THIS TIME?

NOW THAT THE BATMAN IS FINISHED, LET'S FINISH UP HERE! GET THE STUFF AWAY AND THEN WE SCRAM BACK TO THE BOSS!



LATER... AS ROBIN PACES THE HALLWAY, A HAND WHIPS ABOUT HIS MOUTH---

YEAH-- THE BOSS WILL BE GLAD TO SEE HIM!

IT'S THAT WISE ROBIN KID THAT WORKS WITH THE BATMAN!



THE BOSS IS INFORMED OF THE SWIFT-MOVING EVENTS OF THAT NIGHT....

SURE... THE BATMAN WAS MARTY LODEN?

SO... WELL... MAYBE WE OUGHT TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF ROBIN, TOO-- VERY GOOD CARE?



SUDDENLY, THE DOOR CRASHES OPEN-- AND IN WALKS SLINK?

SLINK? WHAT--- WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT OF JAIL?

I BROKE OUT, I WAS GETTIN' STIR CRAZY LIKE THOSE GUYS YOU GET OUT ON PAROLE!



YOU FOOL! WHY DIDN'T YOU WAIT TILL I GOT YOU OUT ON PAROLE?

WHO YOU KIDDIN'? NOT EVEN YOU CAN GET ME OUT--- NO GUYS WITH MURDER RAPS ARE PAROLED-- AN' YOU KNOW IT?



SUDDENLY, THE EERIE WAIL OF A POLICE SIREN CUTS THROUGH THE NIGHT AIR?

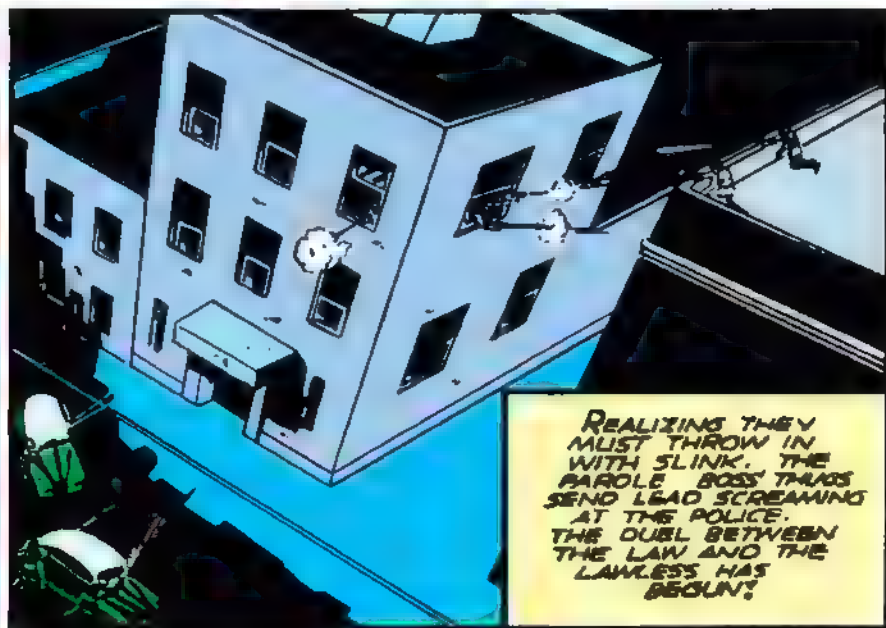
COPS... THEY MUST'VE FOLLOWED YOU HERE?

I'LL FIX THEM!



MENT SPREAD OUT--- SURROUND THE PLACE-- GET ALL THE PEOPLE FROM THE BUILDING OUT--- AND THEN START FIRING?

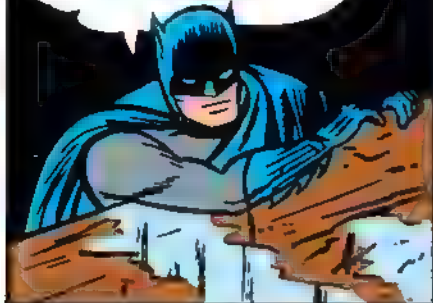
UGH!



REALIZING THEY MUST THROW IN WITH SLINK, THE PAROLE BOSS THUGS SEND LEAD SCREAMING AT THE POLICE. THE DUEL BETWEEN THE LAW AND THE LAWLESS HAS BEGUN!

AS THE BATTLE OF BULLETS RAGES, A DRIPPING FIGURE PULLS ITSELF ONTO THE WATERFRONT PIER---IT IS THE BATMAN!

WOW--MY HEAD! I MUST HAVE BEEN DRIFTING ON THE WATER FOR QUITE A FEW MINUTES-- BETTER GET BACK TO ROBIN--



MEANWHILE, THE BOSS' THUGS FALL LIKE LEAVES IN A STORM BEFORE THE WITHERING GUNFIRE---

GET MOVING, KID?

THEY'RE CUTTIN' US TO PIECES?

LOOK OUT? THEY'RE SHOOTING-- (COUGH-COUGH?) TEAR GAS CARTRIDGES?

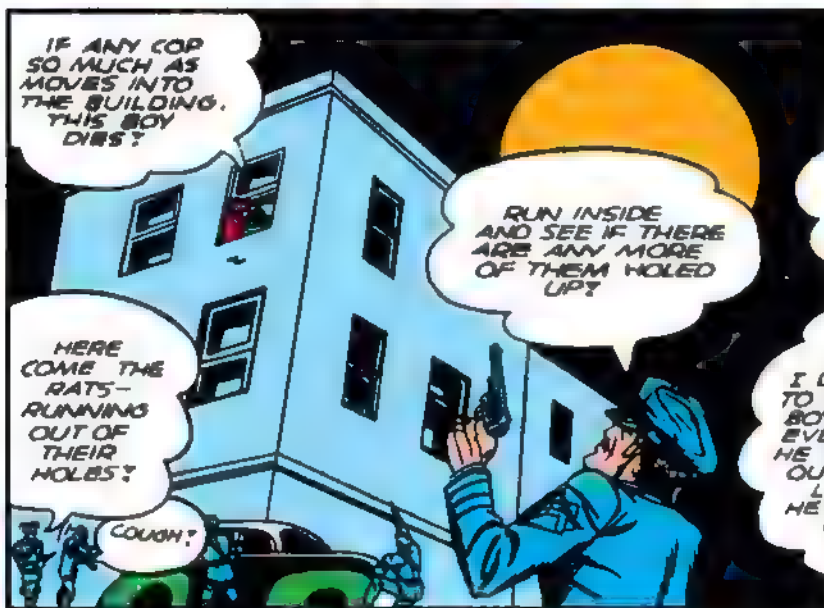


IF ANY COP SO MUCH AS MOVES INTO THE BUILDING, THIS BOY DIES?

RUN INSIDE AND SEE IF THERE ARE ANY MORE OF THEM HOLED UP?

HERE COME THE RATS-- RUNNING OUT OF THEIR HOLES?

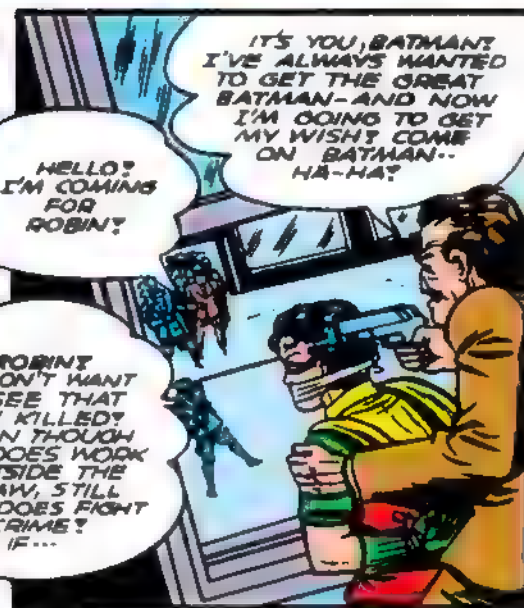
COUGH?



HELLO? I'M COMING FOR ROBIN?

ROBIN? I DON'T WANT TO SEE THAT BOY KILLED! EVEN THOUGH HE DOES WORK OUTSIDE THE LAW, STILL HE DOES FIGHT CRIME! IF...

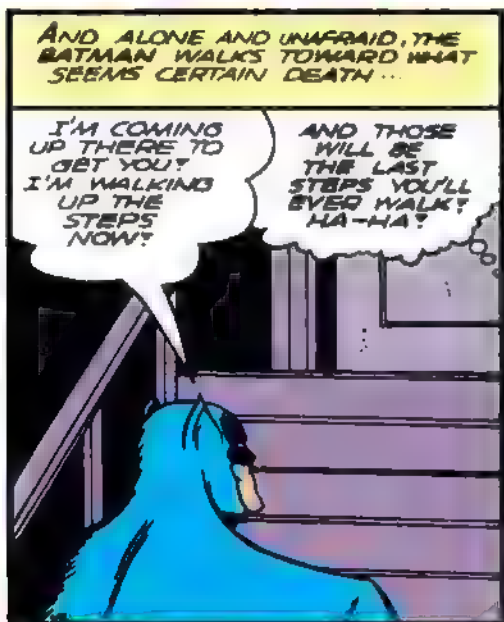
IT'S YOU, BATMAN? I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO GET THE GREAT BATMAN--AND NOW I'M GOING TO GET MY WISH? COME ON, BATMAN-- HA-HA?



AND ALONE AND UNAFRAID, THE BATMAN WALKS TOWARD WHAT SEEMS CERTAIN DEATH...

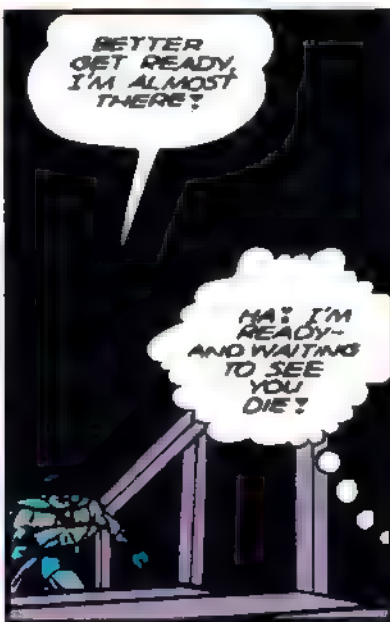
I'M COMING UP THERE TO GET YOU! I'M WALKING UP THE STEPS NOW?

AND THOSE WILL BE THE LAST STEPS YOU'LL EVER WALK? HA-HA?



BETTER GET READY, I'M ALMOST THERE?

HA? I'M READY-- AND WAITING TO SEE YOU DIE?



I'M HERE, FELLA?

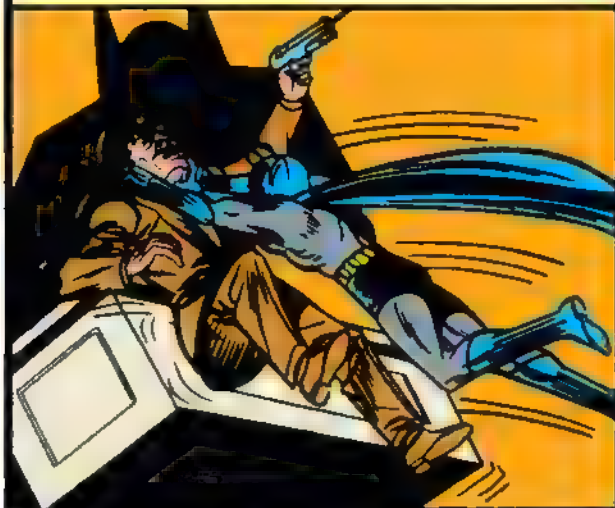
OKAY, BATMAN-- YOU ASKED FOR IT?



ABRUPTLY--ROBIN ACTS WITH THE SPEED OF THOUGHT--



THE CRIME-FIGHTER AND CRIME-MASTER CLASH IN A BATTLE TO DEATH.



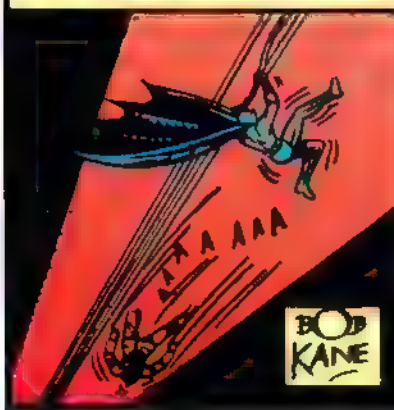
A SUDDEN BLOW SENDS THE BATMAN OFF BALANCE AND REELING TOWARD AN OPEN ELEVATOR SHAFT--



BUT THE MADMAN'S CHARGE CARRIES HIM TOO FAR. BOTH THE BATMAN AND THE PAROLE RACKETEER PLUNGE DOWN THE SHAFT!



EVEN AS HE DROPS, LIKE A LEADEN PLUMMET, THE BATMAN'S HAND CLOSES VISELIKE ABOUT THE OILY ELEVATOR CABLE-- BUT THE PAROLE RACKETEER IS NOT SO FORTUNATE. A TRAILING SHRIEK MARKS HIS END!



LATER--

WELL, I SUPPOSE ALL THOSE MEN PAROLED BY THEIR BOSS WILL GO BACK TO JAIL?

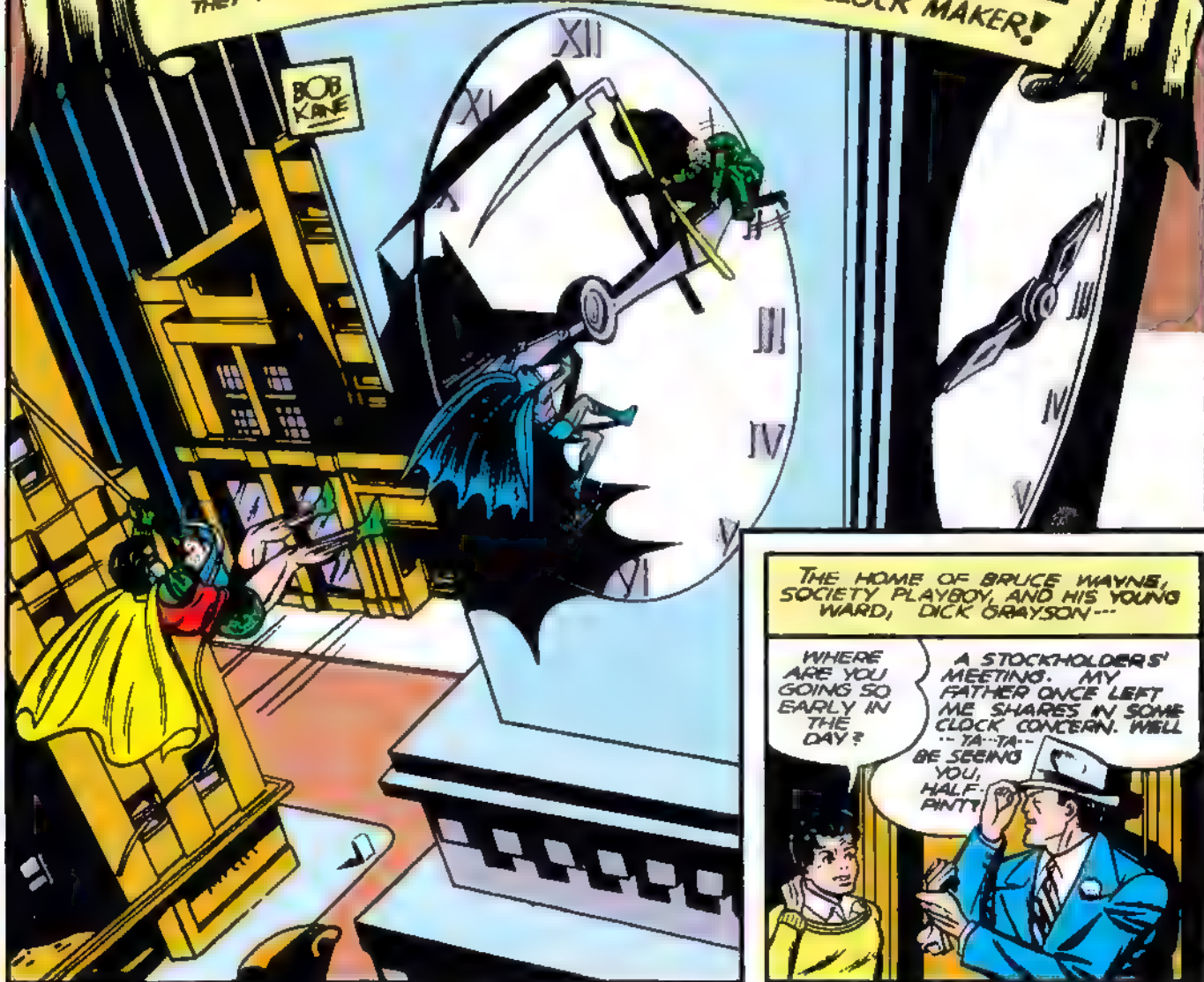
ALL EXCEPT MILLER? HE EARNED HIS PAROLE. YOU KNOW, IT'S EASY FOR MOST PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND CRIME DOESN'T PAY, BUT WHEN A CRIMINAL SUDDENLY REALIZES IT, AS MILLER DID, WELL, THAT'S ABOUT THE BEST MORAL LESSON THERE CAN BE?



BAT MAN

WITH
Robin
-THE BOY WONDER-

HE WAS JUST A CLOCK MAKER--- AND HE CALLED THEM MURDERERS? WHY?...AND WHY DID PEOPLE DIE WHEN CLOCKS STRUCK THIRTEEN? WHY DID THE TOLLING OF THIRTEEN MEAN THE TOLLING OF THE DEATH-KNELL? THIS WAS THE PROBLEM THAT FACED THE BATMAN AND ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER. BUT THEY FOUND OUT...THEY FOUND THE ANSWER ALMOST TOO LATE WHEN THEY THEMSELVES DISCOVERED THAT THEY TOO WERE MARKED FOR DEATH BY--- **THE CLOCK MAKER!**

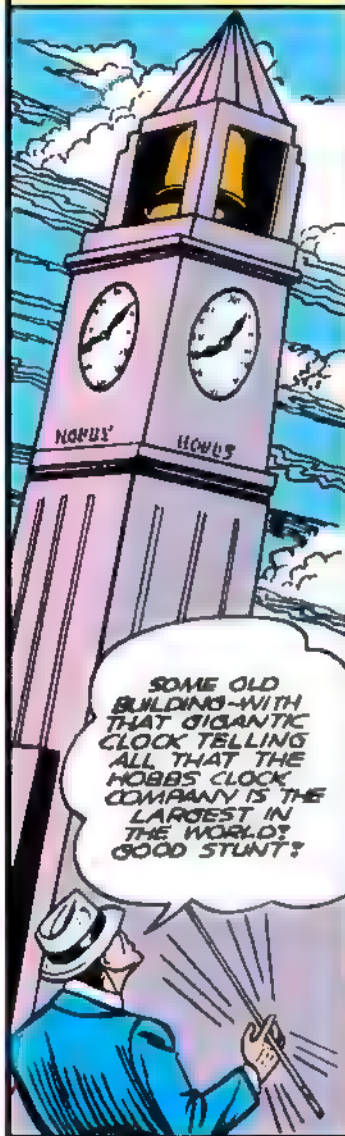


THE HOME OF BRUCE WAYNE, SOCIETY PLAYBOY, AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON---

WHERE ARE YOU GOING SO EARLY IN THE DAY?

A STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING. MY FATHER ONCE LEFT ME SHARES IN SOME CLOCK CONCERN. WELL --TA--TA-- BE SEEING YOU, HALF-FIFTY

THE HOBBS CLOCK BUILDING---



SOME OLD BUILDING-WITH THAT GIGANTIC CLOCK TELLING ALL THAT THE HOBBS CLOCK COMPANY IS THE LARGEST IN THE WORLD? GOOD STUNT?

BRUCE JOINS THE STOCKHOLDERS, WHO LISTEN IN BORED TONES AS THE CHAIRMAN DRONES ON AND ON AND ON AND ON----



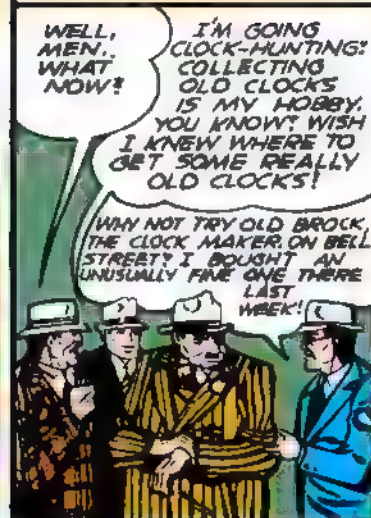
HO HUM?

ISN'T THAT GUY EVER GOING TO LET US GO HOME?

SHH-HH-THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT, KEATING?

OH-- QUIET, ATKINS? AND YOU TOO, KEATING?

AFTER THE MEETING---



WELL, MEN... WHAT NOW?

I'M GOING CLOCK-HUNTING! COLLECTING OLD CLOCKS IS MY HOBBY. YOU KNOW? WISH I KNEW WHERE TO GET SOME REALLY OLD CLOCKS!

WHY NOT TRY OLD BROCK, THE CLOCK MAKER, ON BELL STREET? I BOUGHT AN UNUSUALLY FINE ONE THERE LAST WEEK!

QUEER OLD FELLOW, BROCK--- THINKS HE'S FATHER TIME? EVEN WEARS AN HOUR-GLASS AROUND HIS NECK-- HE'S A REGULAR FANATIC ON TIME?

I'D LIKE TO SEE THIS "FATHER TIME" FELLOW! I'LL JOIN YOU, AND I DARE SAY BRUCE WILL, TOO?



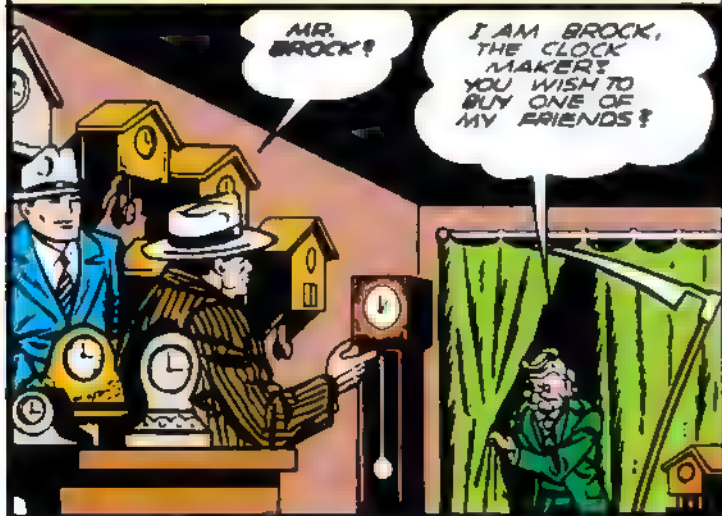
SOMETIME LATER...A SMALL SIDE STREET---



SO THIS IS THE PLACE? DOESN'T LOOK LIKE MUCH, DOES IT?

AND THAT'S GOOD! IT'S IN JUST THIS SORT OF PLACE THAT ONE CAN PICK UP THE OLDEST CLOCKS

INSIDE THE CRAMPED INTERIOR, CLOCKS STAND ON SHELVES AND COUNTERS---CLOCKS, HUNDREDS OF THEM, ALL TICKING WITH PERSISTENT, MONOTONOUS REGULARITY---



MR. BROCK?

I AM BROCK, THE CLOCK MAKER? YOU WISH TO BUY ONE OF MY FRIENDS?

FRIENDS? OH--- WHY--- YES--- THAT CLOCK OVER THERE--

THAT ONE IS AN OLD FRIEND OF MINE. HE HAS BEEN WITH ME FOR MANY YEARS?

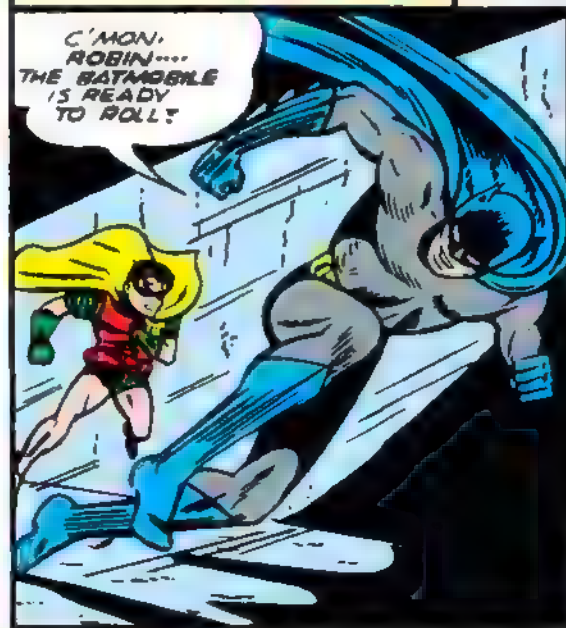
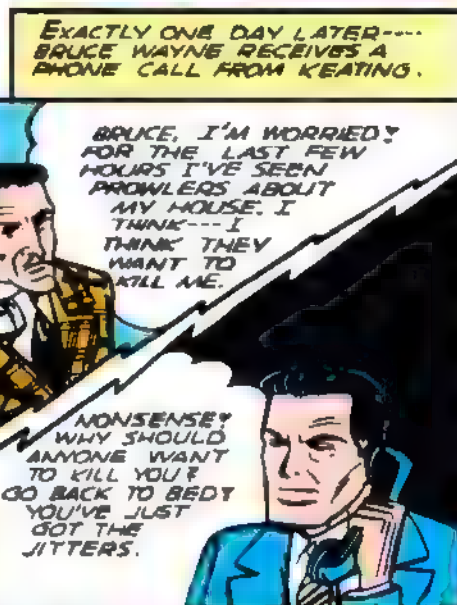
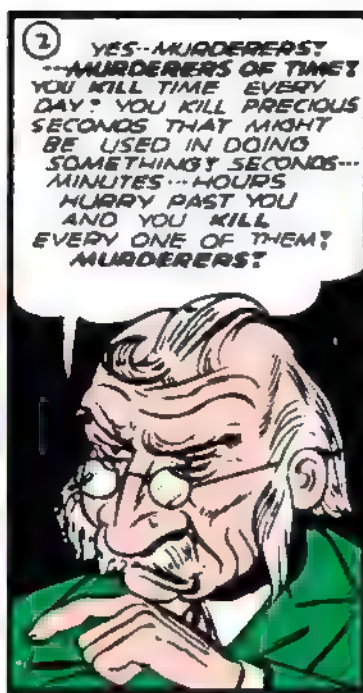


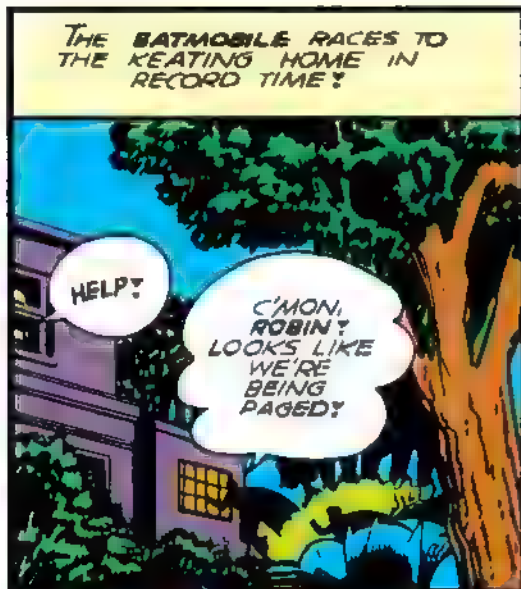
AH--- YOU CHAPS DON'T MIND IF I TAKE A LITTLE TIME LOOKING OVER THESE CLOCKS, DO YOU?

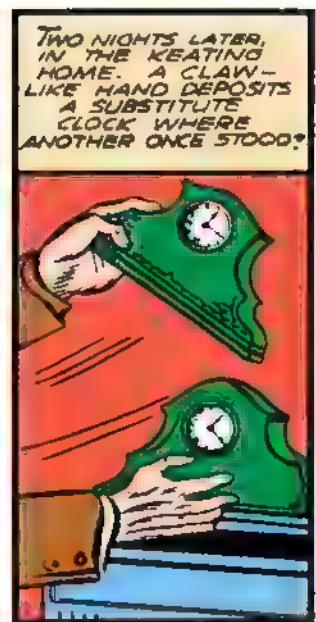
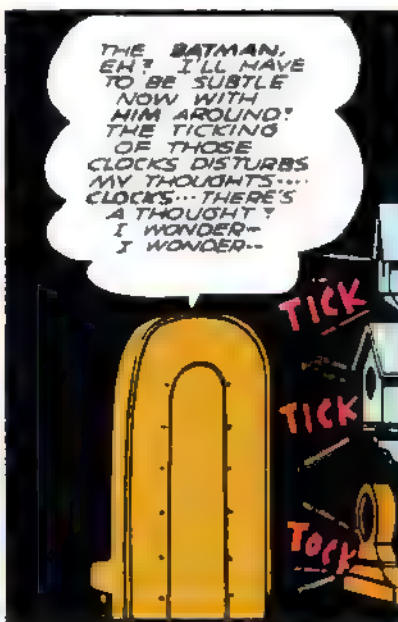
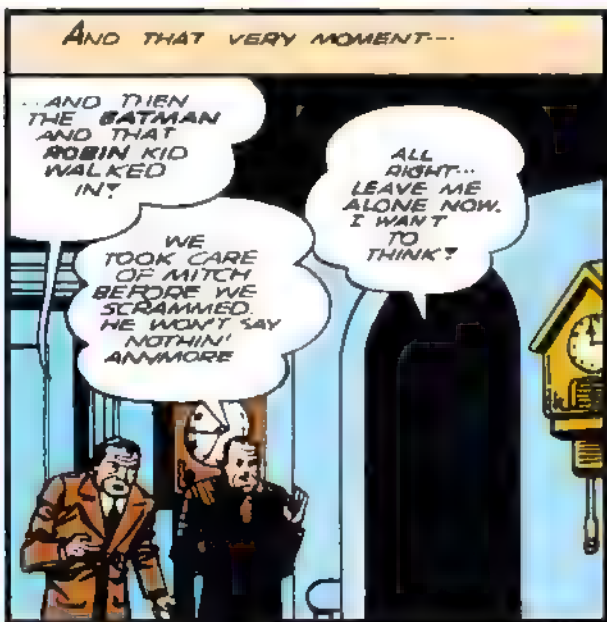
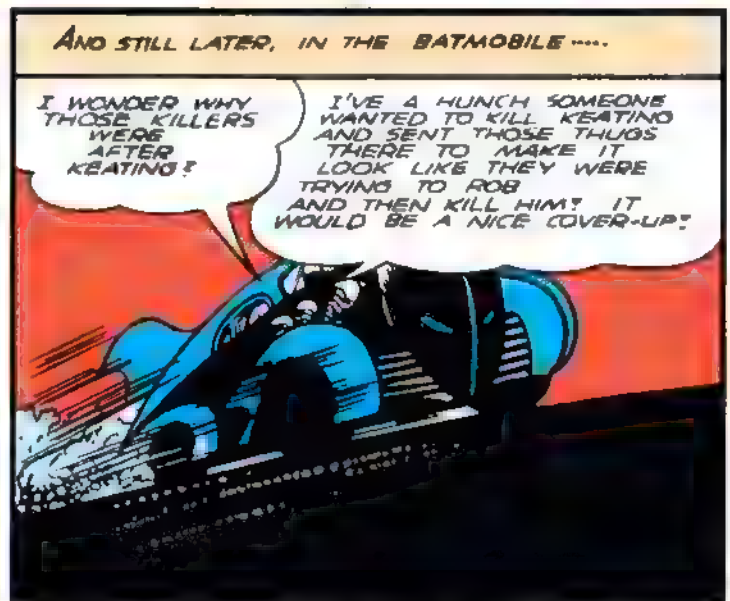
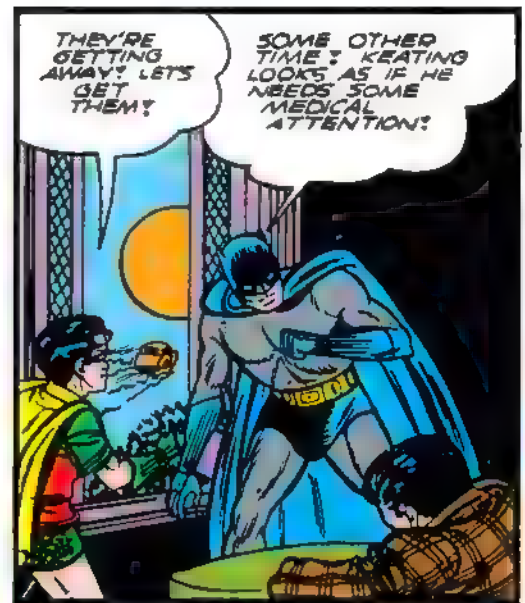
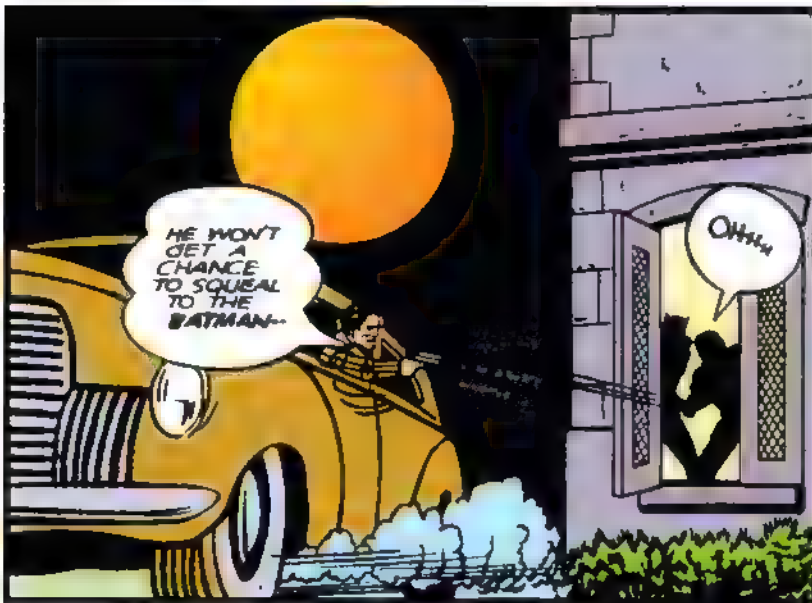
DON'T BE SILLY--- I'M JUST KILLING TIME--- I'M NOT DOING ANYTHING THIS AFTERNOON, ANYWAY?

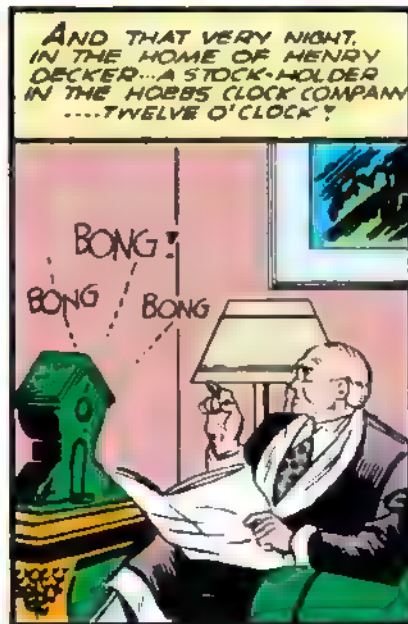
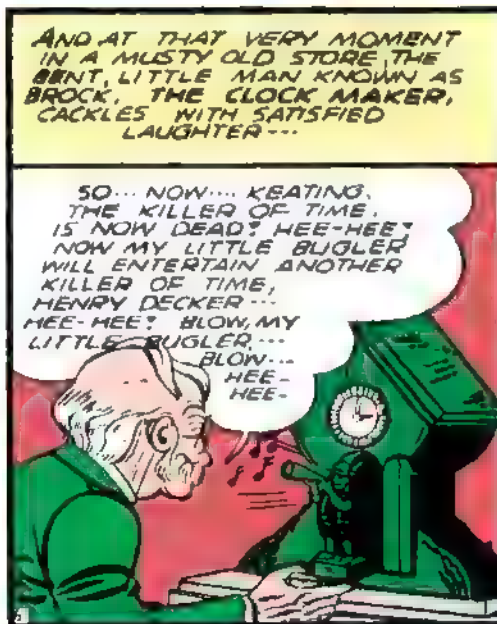
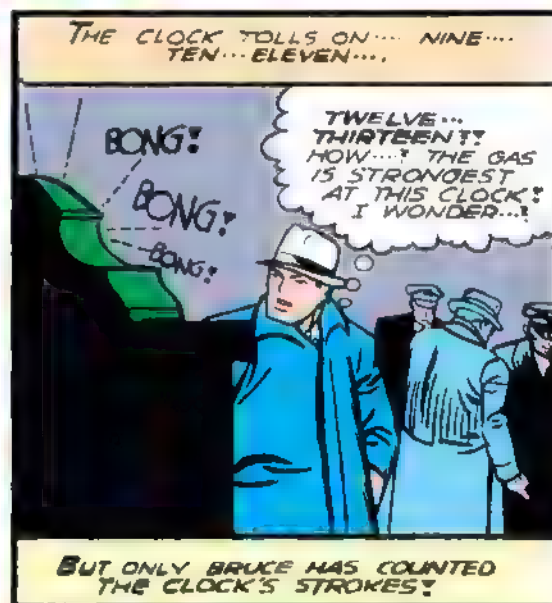
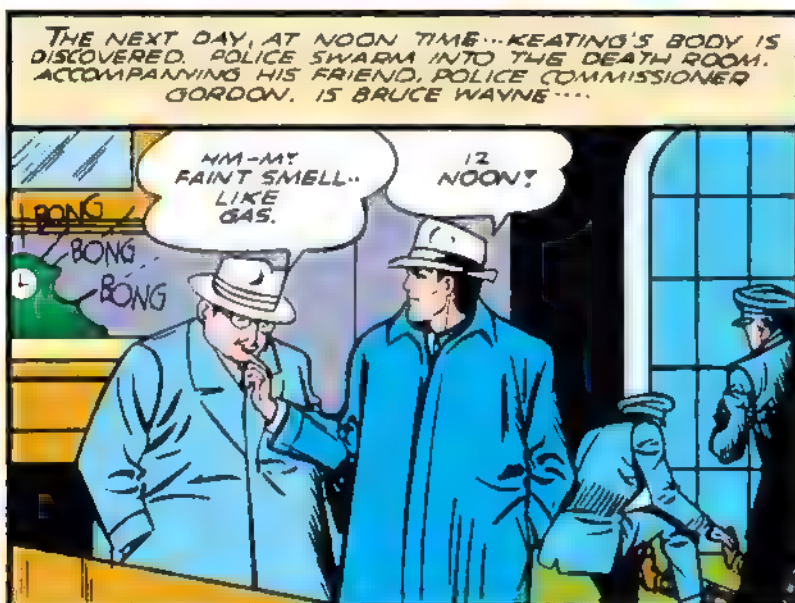
GO AHEAD--- I'VE PLENTY OF TIME, TOO?











NOONTIME--THE NEXT DAY...
POLICE INVESTIGATE ANOTHER
MYSTERIOUS DEATH?

THAT'S
WHAT KILLED
HIM?

A DART--A TINY
DART--PROBABLY
WITH DEADLY
POISON ON IT?



I WONDER
WHO BLEW
THAT DART?
OH--TWELVE
O'CLOCK?



THE CLOCK TOLLS ON--
FOUR---FIVE---SIX---
SEVEN---EIGHT?

NINE---TEN---ELEVEN---
TWELVE---

THIRTEEN...
LIKE THE
OTHER ONE...

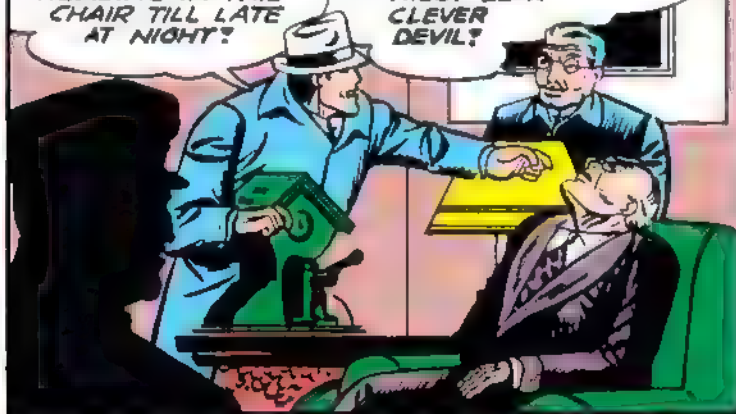
WHA--
YOU'RE
CRAZY?

LOOK! THERE'S
YOUR MURDERER!
THAT LITTLE
BUGLER?



CRAZY, AM I?
HERE--THIS
BUGLER BLEW
THE DART WHEN
THE CLOCK READ
MIDNIGHT? DECKER
HAD A HABIT OF
READING IN THIS
CHAIR TILL LATE
AT NIGHT?

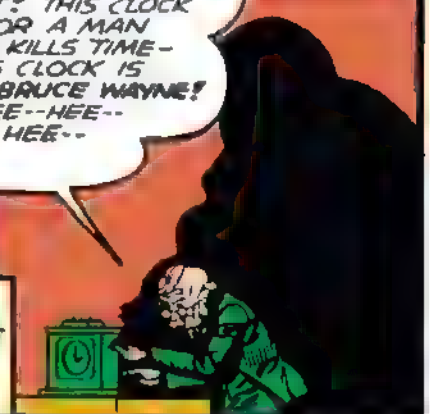
OF COURSE, AND
OUR MURDERER
KNEW THAT? HE
KNEW DECKER'S
HEAD WOULD BE IN
LINE WITH THE CLOCK?
WHY--OUR MURDERER
MUST BE A
CLEVER
DEVIL?



AND IN HIS DINGY STORE, THE CLOCK
MAKER LAUGHS GLEEFULLY AS HUNDRED
OF CLOCKS CHIME AT ONCE.

HEE--HEE? THAT'S
RIGHT-- THAT'S
RIGHT? THIS CLOCK
IS FOR A MAN
WHO KILLS TIME--
THIS CLOCK IS
FOR BRUCE WAYNE!
HEE--HEE--
HEE--

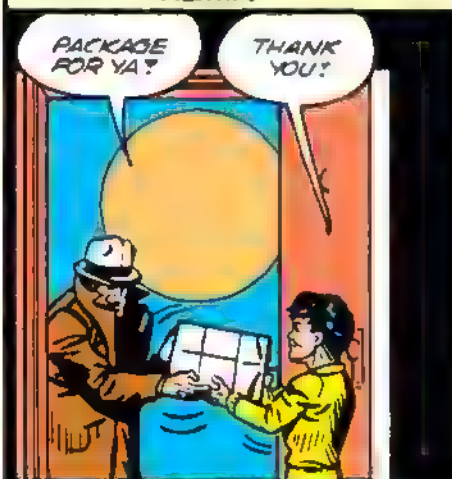
AND
BRUCE WAYNE
IS THE
BATMAN?



THAT VERY NIGHT AS THE
MIDNIGHT HOUR DRAWS CLOSE,
THE LOUD RATTLE OF A DOOR-
BELL BRINGS DICK GRAYSON
TO THE DOOR OF THE WAYNE
HOME.

PACKAGE
FOR YA?

THANK
YOU?



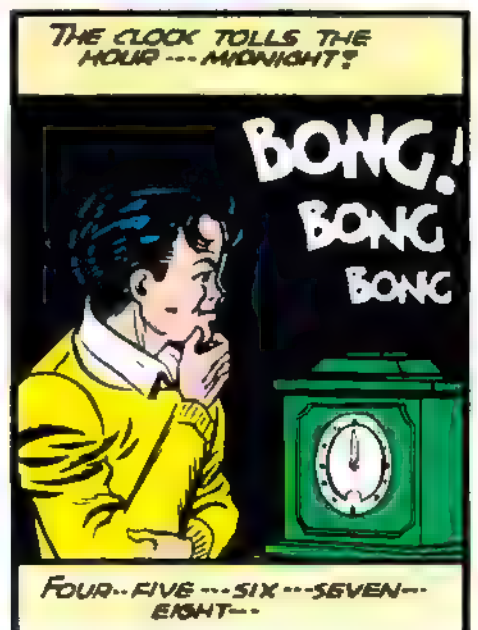
IT'S A
CLOCK?
NOW WHY
SHOULD
ANYONE SEND
US A
CLOCK?



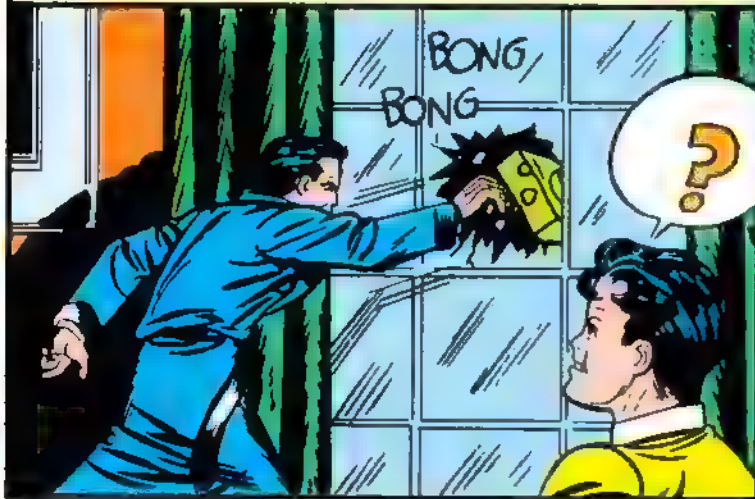
THE CLOCK TOLLS THE
HOUR---MIDNIGHT?

BONG!
BONG
BONG

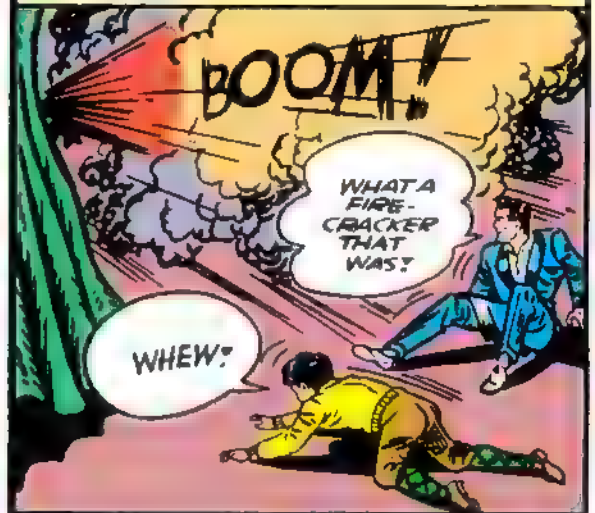
FOUR--FIVE---SIX---SEVEN---
EIGHT--



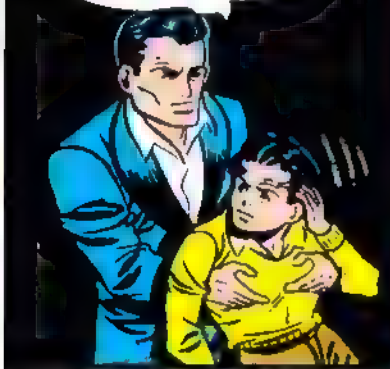
SUDDENLY, A FIGURE HURTLIES INTO THE ROOM--PICKS UP THE CLOCK--AND---



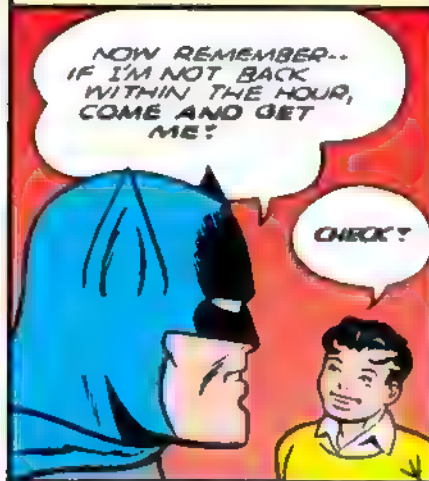
NINE--TEN--ELEVEN--TWELVE--THIRTEEN-- THEN--A THUNDEROUS BLAST DEAFENS THE NIGHT?



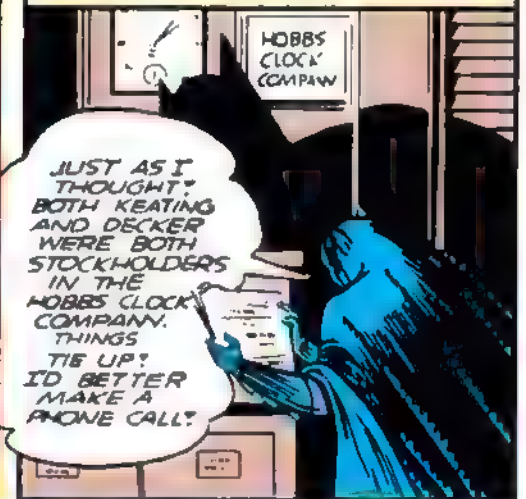
GOOD THING I HEARD THAT CLOCK START TO CHIME. I KNEW WE HAD NO CLOCKS LIKE THAT! LOOKS LIKE SOME-BODY DOESN'T LIKE US, EH, KID?



THE VERY NEXT NIGHT? ONCE AGAIN BRUCE WAYNE DONS THE INK-HUED GARB OF THE BATMAN?



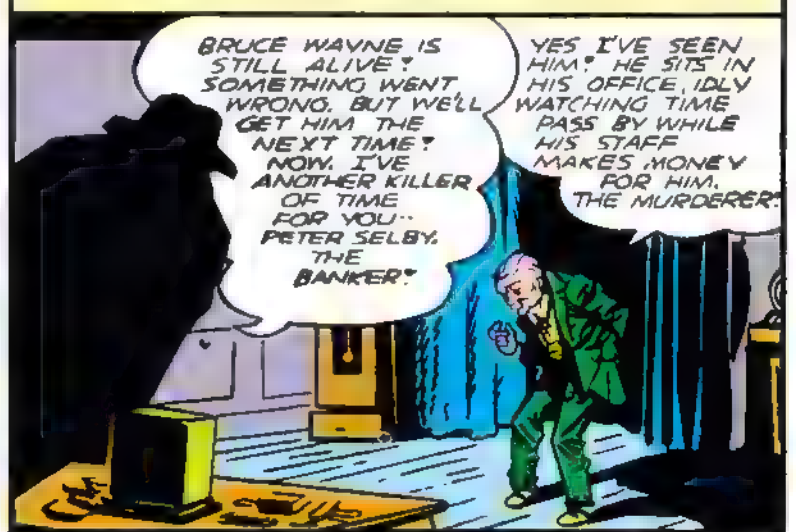
SOMETIME LATER - THE BATMAN'S CAPED FIGURE BENDS OVER A FILING CABINET?

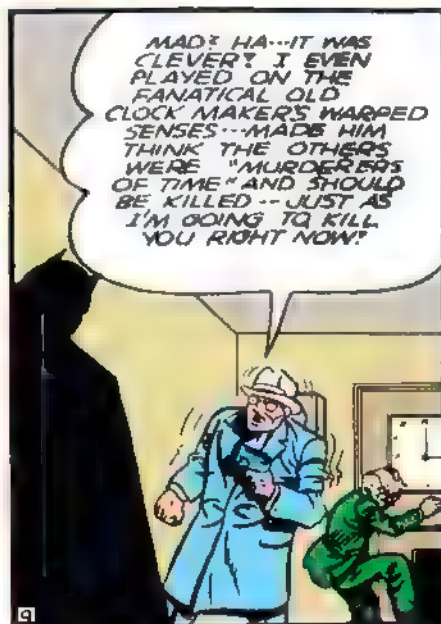
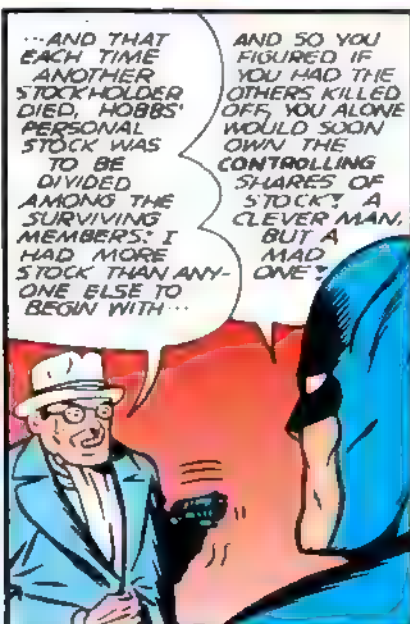
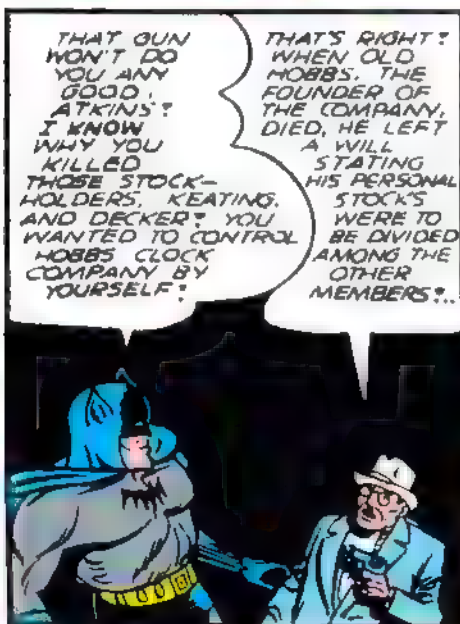
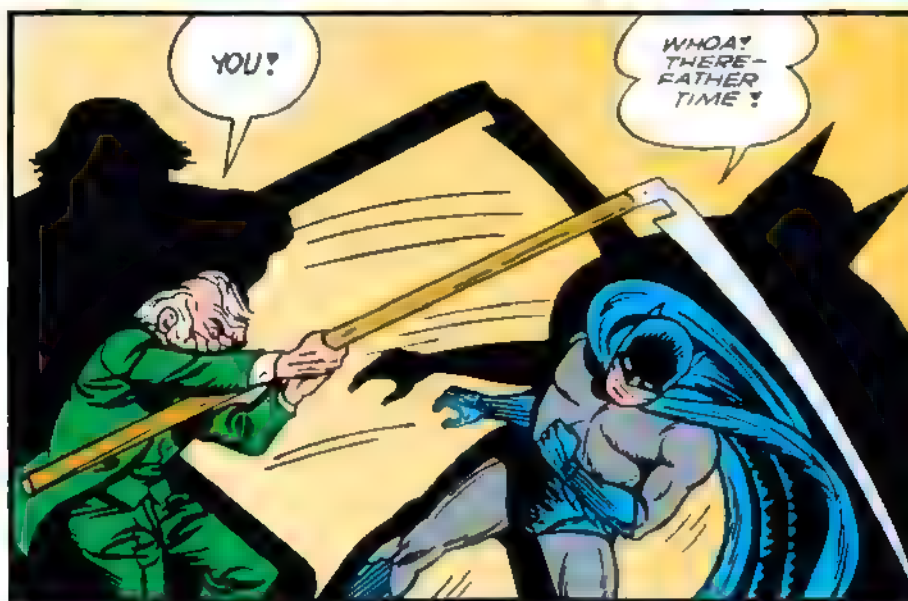
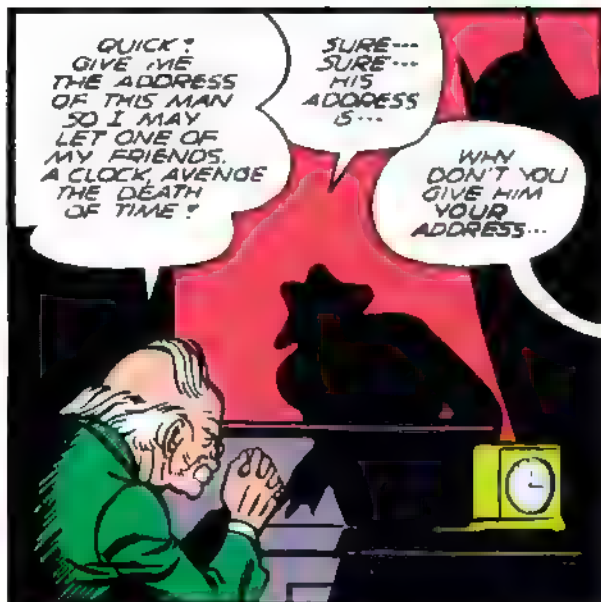


THE BATMAN PHONES THE BANKER, SELBY--

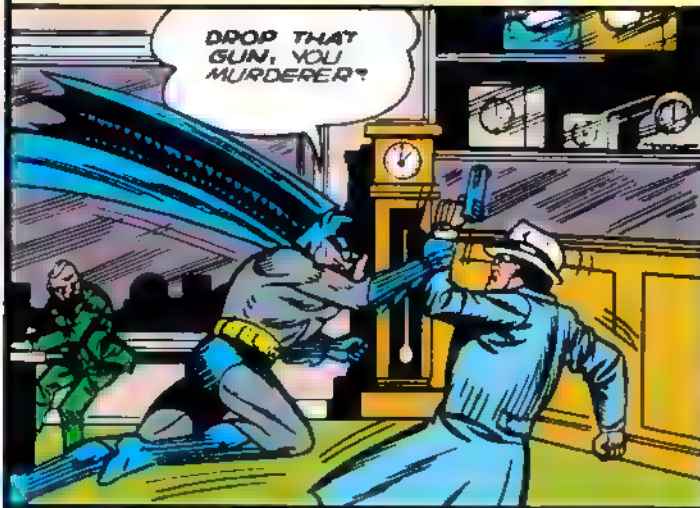


AND IN THE CRAMPED INTERIOR OF HIS LITTLE SHOP, THE CLOCK MAKER LISTENS INTENTLY TO A MAN WHO SPEAKS TO HIM--





WITH ONE CAT-LIKE BOUND, THE BATMAN IS UPON ATKINS!



DROP THAT GUN, YOU MURDERER!

THE GUN GOES OFF--AND THE BULLET FINDS ITS MARK!



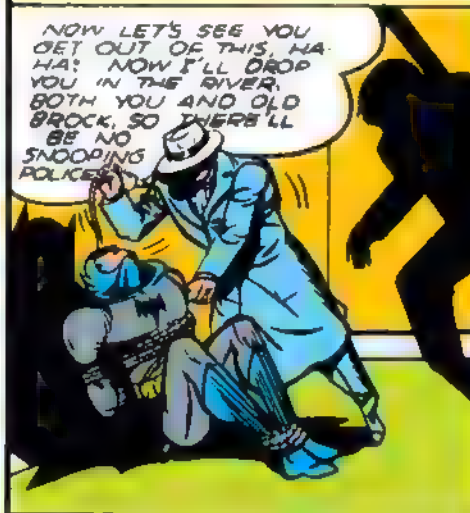
THE CLOCK MAKER'S BEEN HIT!

AS THE BATMAN, HORRIFIED, WATCHES OLD BROCK DROP TO THE FLOOR, HE LEAVES HIMSELF OFF-GUARD FOR THE MOMENT AND --



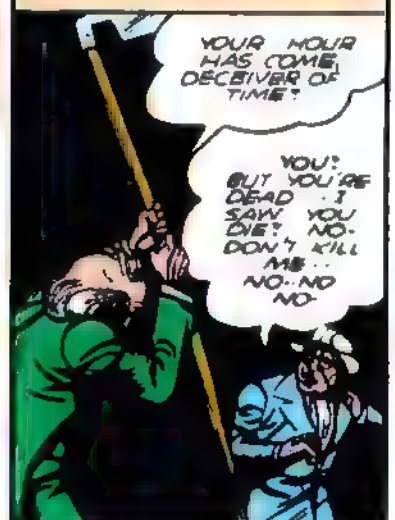
HA...HA...HA HAY

ATKINS BINDS THE BATMAN WITH ROPE!



NOW LET'S SEE YOU GET OUT OF THIS, HA-HA! NOW I'LL DROP YOU IN THE RIVER, BOTH YOU AND OLD BROCK, SO THERE'LL BE NO SNOOPING POLICEMEN!

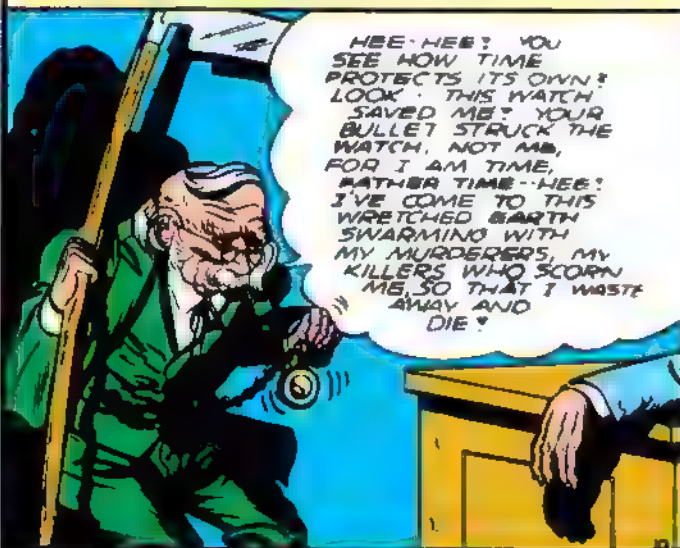
SUDDENLY, A VOICE WHIRLS ATKINS ABOUT!



YOUR HOUR HAS COME, DECEIVER OF TIME!

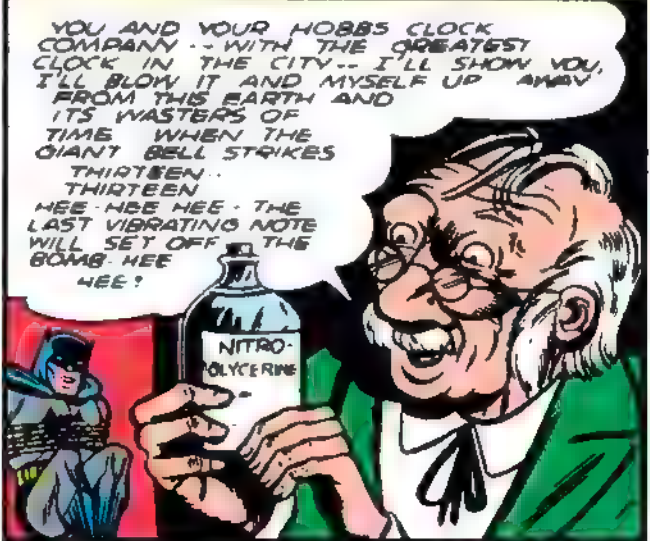
YOU? BUT YOU'RE DEAD... I SAW YOU DIE! NO... DON'T KILL ME... NO... NO... NO...

A SHRIEK IS SUDDENLY CUT OFF: DEATH HAS COME TO ATKINS!



HEE-HEE? YOU SEE NOW TIME PROTECTS ITS OWN? LOOK - THIS WATCH SAVED ME! YOUR BULLET STRUCK THE WATCH, NOT ME, FOR I AM TIME, RATHER TIME--HEE! I'VE COME TO THIS WRETCHED EARTH SWARMING WITH MY MURDERERS, MY KILLERS WHO SCORN ME SO THAT I WASTE AWAY AND DIE!

AS THE MADMAN RAVES ON - THE BATMAN REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS



YOU AND YOUR HOBBS CLOCK COMPANY -- WITH THE GREATEST CLOCK IN THE CITY -- I'LL SHOW YOU, I'LL BLOW IT AND MYSELF UP AWAY FROM THIS EARTH AND ITS MASTERS OF TIME WHEN THE GIANT BELL STRIKES THIRTEEN... THIRTEEN... HEE-HEE HEE - THE LAST VIBRATING NOTE WILL SET OFF THE BOMB! HEE-HEE?

DESPERATELY THE BATMAN TRIES TO FREE HIMSELF FROM HIS BONDS----

THAT MADMAN WILL NOT ONLY BLOW UP THE HOBBS BUILDING WITH ALL THAT TNT, BUT ALSO HALF THE TOWN! I'VE GOT TO GET FREE---I'VE GOT TO!

BUT TIME PASSES QUICKLY AND THE TICKING CLOCKS SEEM TO MOCK HIS VERY EFFORTS?

AND WHEN THE BATMAN HAS JUST ABOUT GIVEN UP HOPE---

ROBIN? HURRY! GET THESE ROPES OFF ME?

RIGHT? WHEN YOU DIDN'T SHOW UP I RACED OVER HERE WITH THE BATMOBILE, JUST AS YOU TOLD ME TO?

A SUDDEN ROAR....AND THE BATMOBILE RACES NECK AND NECK WITH TIME!

WHAT'S YOUR HURRY? ITS ONLY TEN O'CLOCK AND THE BELL WON'T STRIKE THIRTEEN TILL TWELVE, ACCORDING TO THE OTHER MURDERS.

NOT THIS TIME? OUR CLOCK MAKER FRIEND INTENDS TO SET THE CLOCK SO THAT IT WILL STRIKE THIRTEEN AT EXACTLY TEN O'CLOCK! AND WE'VE GOT EXACTLY TWO MINUTES TILL TEN?

ONE MINUTE.... TWO MINUTES... TIME MOVES AGONIZINGLY SLOW... THEN--THE HOBBS BUILDING?

HEE'HEE? YOU'RE TOO LATE--- TOO LATE!

BONG

LOOK! UP THERE! THE CLOCK MAKER?

THE BELL IS STRIKING! IT'S TEN O'CLOCK!

A TERRIBLE SOUND SHATTERS THE SILENCE OF THE NIGHT. IT IS THE BELL TOLLING OUT THE HOUR! ONE?

A SHARP COMMAND TO ROBIN AND THE BATMAN DARTS INTO AN ELEVATOR WHOSE SWIFT ASCENT SEEMS INCREDIBLY SLOW, AS THE GIANT BELLS TOLL TWO?

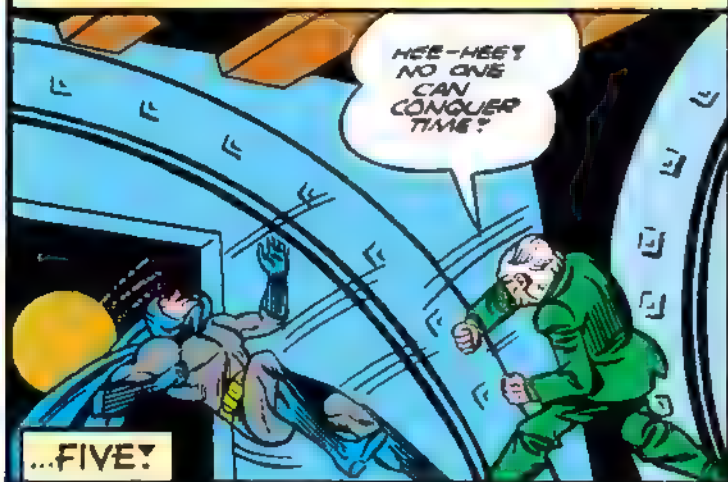
AND THE BATMAN GAINS THE SMALL ROOM SET IN THE CLOCK ITSELF?

--AS THE BELL SWINGS AND TOLLS--THREE?

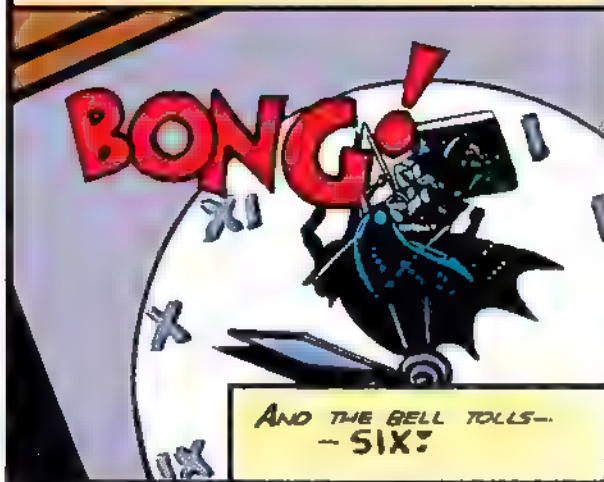
AND NOW IT IS A FIGHT AGAINST THE INEXORABLE ADVANCE OF TIME ITSELF, AS BELOW, TWO MEN BATTLE, AND ABOVE, THE PONDEROUS BELL CLANGS FOUR?

NOW I'VE NO SCRUPLES ABOUT SOCKING YOU, MR. CLOCK MAKER?

BUT THE CLOCK MAKER HAS GONE UTTERLY MAD. AND FIGHTS WITH A MADMAN'S FURY AND STRENGTH. A WICKED BLOW SENDS THE SURPRISED BATMAN REELING...TO THE OPEN DOOR'S EDGE?



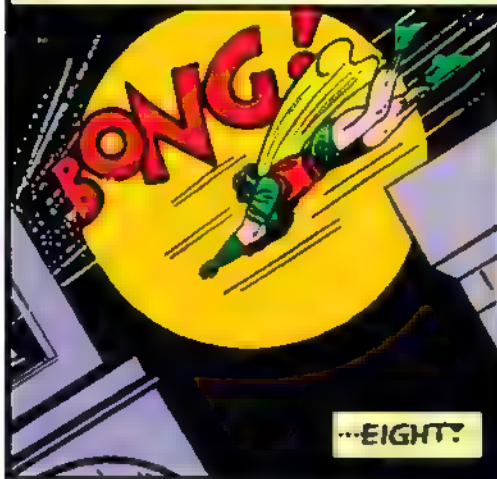
FOR A MOMENT, THE BATMAN TEETERS ON THE VERY EDGE, CLAWING AT THE EMPTY AIR FOR BALANCE, THEN DROPS?



BUT EVEN AS HE DROPS, THE BATMAN MAKES A DESPERATE CLUTCH FOR LIFE-- HIS HAND CLOSES VISE-LIKE ABOUT THE HOUR HAND-- AND HOLDS??



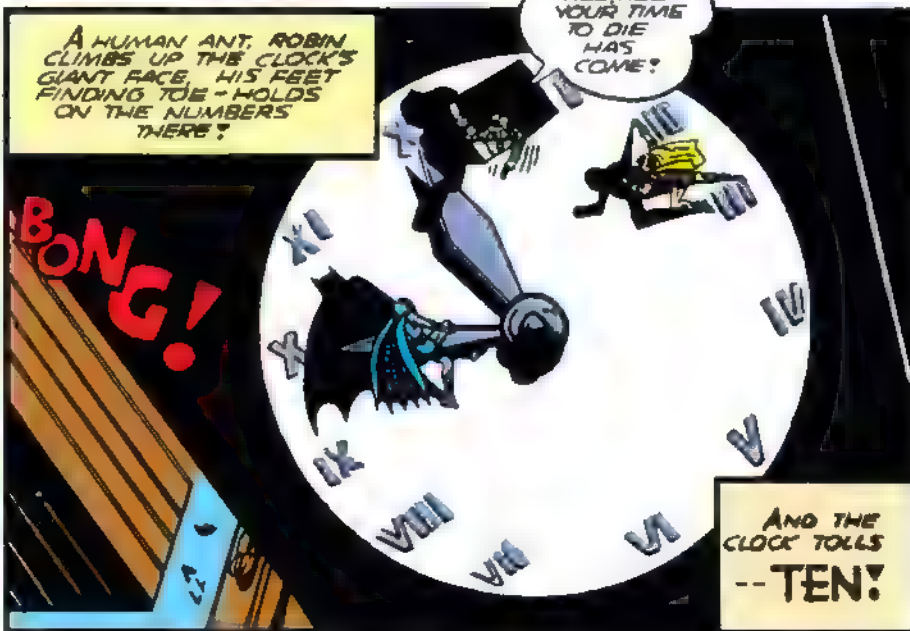
AT THAT VERY INSTANT, A SMALL FIGURE IS SEEN LEAPING THROUGH THE YAWNING CHASM OF SPACE THAT SEPARATES A NEARBY BUILDING FROM THE CLOCK FACE?



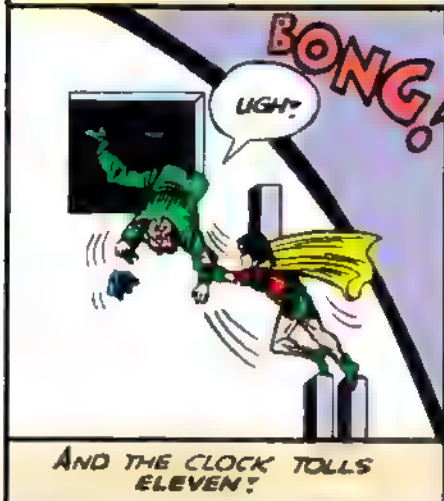
SMALL HANDS SNATCH AT A PROTRUDING CLOCK NUMBER?



A HUMAN ANT, ROBIN CLIMBS UP THE CLOCK'S GIANT FACE, HIS FEET FINDING TOE-HOLDS ON THE NUMBERS THERE?

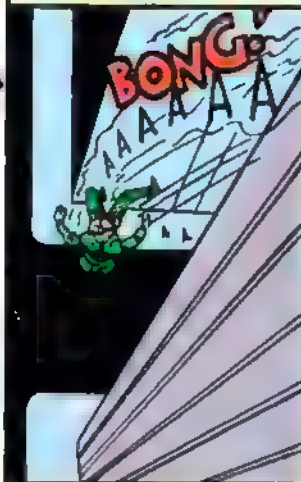


① REACHING OUT, HIS HANDS CLOSE ON THE CLOCK MAKER---

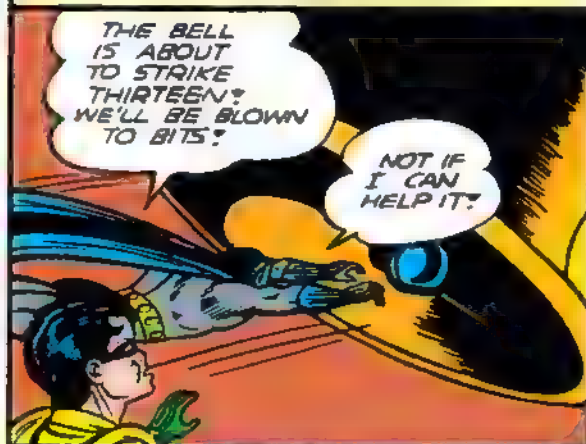


AND THE CLOCK TOLLS ELEVEN!

② WHO FALLS WITH A TRAILING SHRIEK AS THE BELL TOLLS-- TWELVE --



③ AND NOW THE TWIN BATTlers OF CRIME RACE UP TO THE BELFRY ITSELF AS THE GIANT BELL SWINGS PONDEROUSLY... ITS HUGE CLAPPER READY TO CRASH FOR A FINAL CLANG-- AND SHATTERING DEATH?



④ AND THE BATMAN'S BODY WINDS ABOUT THE GIANT CLAPPER AS IT CRASHES WITH SICKENING FORCE AGAINST THE GREAT BELL---



THE BATMAN'S BODY ACTS AS A BUFFER! THE DRAFFENING VIBRATION THAT IS TO SET OFF THE DEADLY T.N.T. DOES NOT COME!

⑤ BACK AND FORTH SWAYS THE GIANT CLAPPER CRASHING THE BATMAN'S BRUISED FORM AGAINST THE BELL AS IF TO DIS- LODGE HIM-- BUT HE HOLDS FAST, LIKE GRIM DEATH?



AT LAST, THE CLAPPER SWAYS NO MORE. ROBIN HAS FOUND THE MECHANISM THAT STOPS THE BELL'S GIANT SWING?

LATER, A SLEEK, VEHICLE BEARS AWAY TWO HEROIC FIGURES-- BATMAN AND ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER?

JUST IN TIME--DON'T THINK I COULD HAVE HELD OUT MUCH MORE!

IT'S OKAY NOW-- EVERY- THING'S ALL OVER?

YOU KNOW SOMETHING-- SOMEHOW I FELT SORT OF SORRY FOR OLD BROCK, THE CLOCK MAKER? HE JUST HATED PEOPLE WHO WASTED TIME. THAT'S ALL?

OF COURSE, HE WAS TOO FANATICAL ABOUT IT--BUT HE WAS RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING. PEOPLE WHO WASTE VALUABLE TIME ARE REALLY ENEMIES OF MANKIND. THINK OF ALL THE FINE CURES FOR DISEASE AND INVENTIONS THAT MIGHT BE FOUND IF THEY MADE USE OF THEIR PRECIOUS TIME? ITS WORTH THINKING ABOUT--

BOB KANE

BATMAN

WITH
Robin
-THE BOY WONDER-

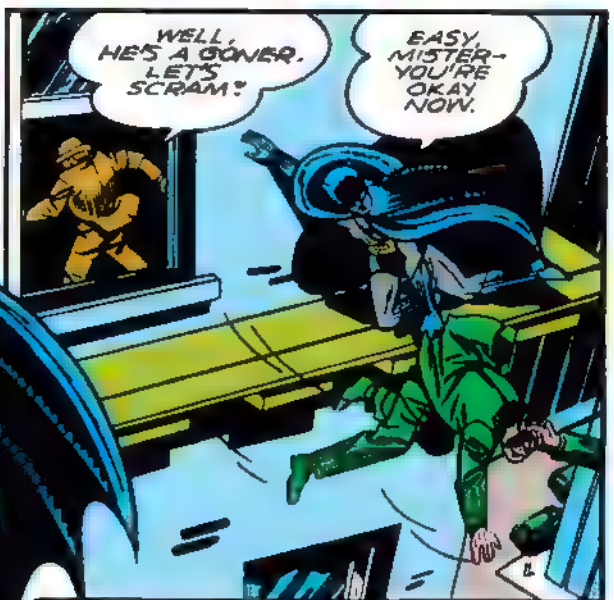
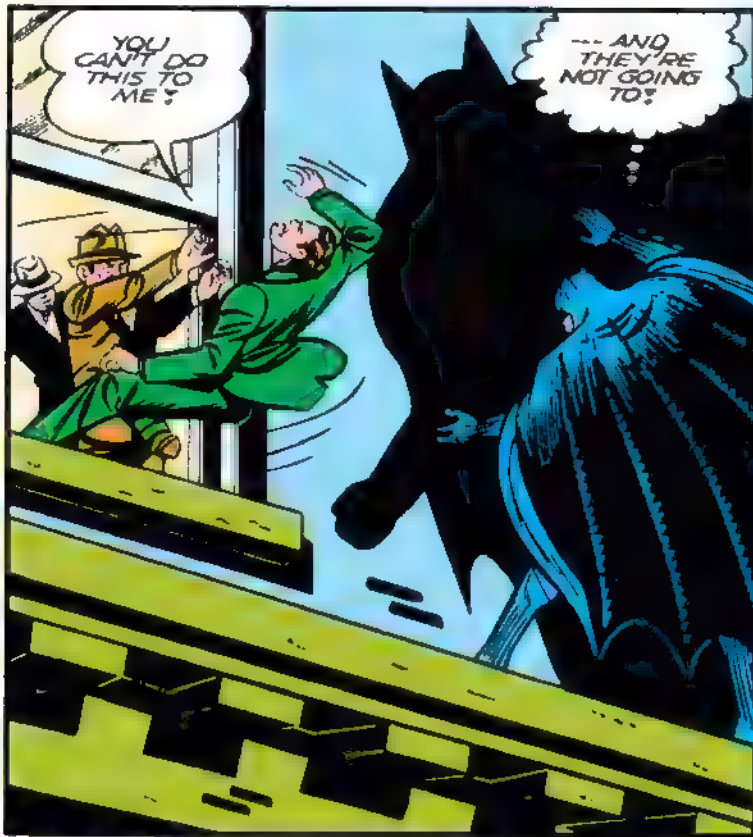
By-

BOB KANE

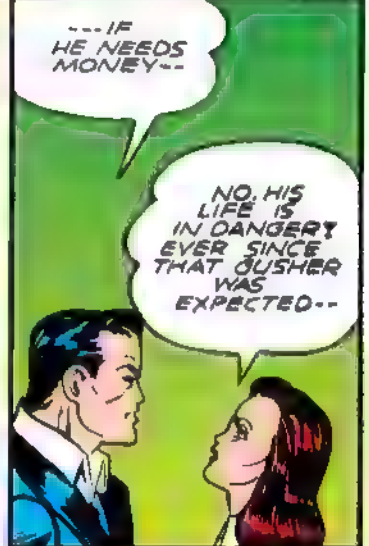
THE BATMAN AND HIS
RIGHT HAND LIEUTENANT--
ROBIN THE BOY WONDER--
CAMPAIGN AGAINST CRIME
IN THE IRON JUNGLE--A
ABANDONED LAND WHERE LONG-
THEIR SMASHED OIL DERRICKS,
SPRAWLING FANTASTICALLY,
STALK LIKE PREHISTORIC
MONSTERS--
THROUGH THE WEIRD
SHADOWS OF THE METAL
TREES SVEEP THE BATMAN
AND ROBIN--A WHIRLWIND
REGIMENT OF TWO--TO
JOIN TITANTIC BATTLE
WITH CRIME AND DOUBLE-
DEALING--AND UNRAVEL
THE TANGLED WEB OF
TERROR WHICH HIDES--
"THE SECRET OF THE
IRON JUNGLE."

AS MIDNIGHT STRIKES AND THE
BATMAN SKIMS OVER THE CITY'S
ROOFS--HE SEES--

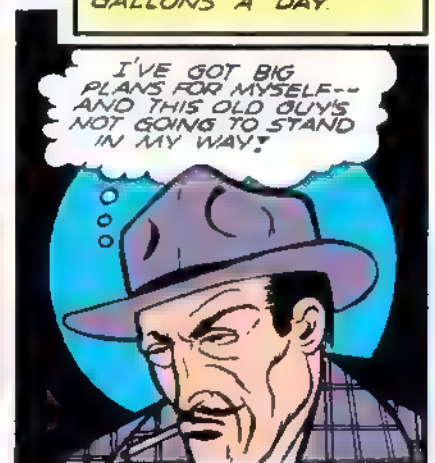
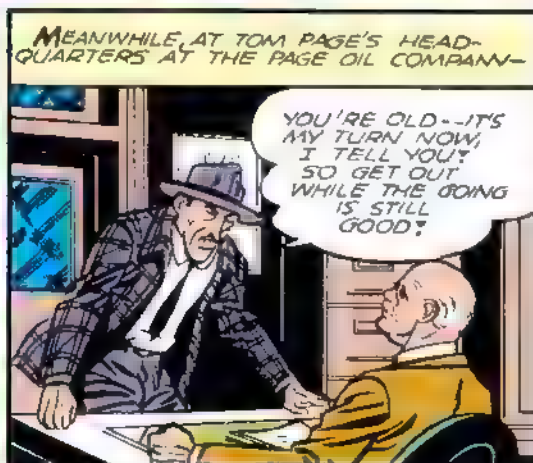
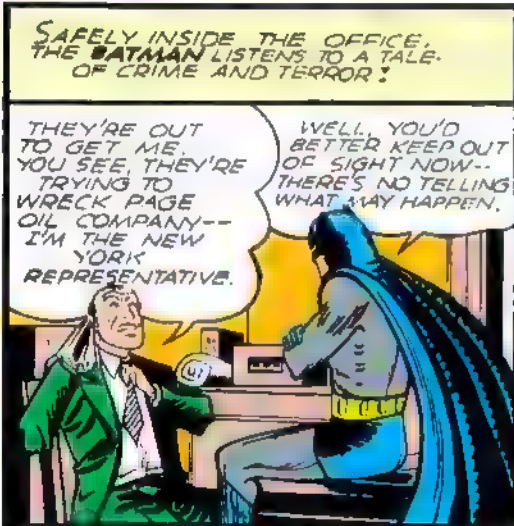




NEXT MORNING, BRUCE WAYNE-- SOCIETY PLAYBOY TO THE WORLD, BUT THE BATMAN ONLY TO DICK GRAYSON, ALIAS ROBIN-- SITS IN HIS STUDY WHEN



NOTE
A GUSHER IS A MONSTER SPOUT OF OIL THAT OFTEN BRINGS UNTOLD WEALTH-- SHOOTING THOUSANDS OF FEET FROM BELOW THE EARTH, HUNDREDS OF FEET INTO THE AIR. GUSHERS HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO POUR OUT OIL AT THE RATE OF TWO MILLION GALLONS A DAY.



AT THAT VERY MOMENT, LINDA IS TELLING BRUCE WHAT HAS BEEN GOING ON--



--- AND ALL KINDS OF STRANGE ACCIDENTS HAVE BEEN HAPPENING---

CHATTING CASUALLY THROUGH THE LIPS OF BRUCE WAYNE-- OUR PLAYBOY PLANS RAPIDLY WITH THE SUREFIRE BRAIN OF THE BATMAN.



OH! THINK I'D LIKE TO SEE TEXAS AGAIN-- I NEED A VACATION.

WELL, WATCH OUT FOR THOSE BIG, HUSKY TEXANS! I'LL BE DOWN LATER TO SEE NOTHING HAPPENS TO YOU!

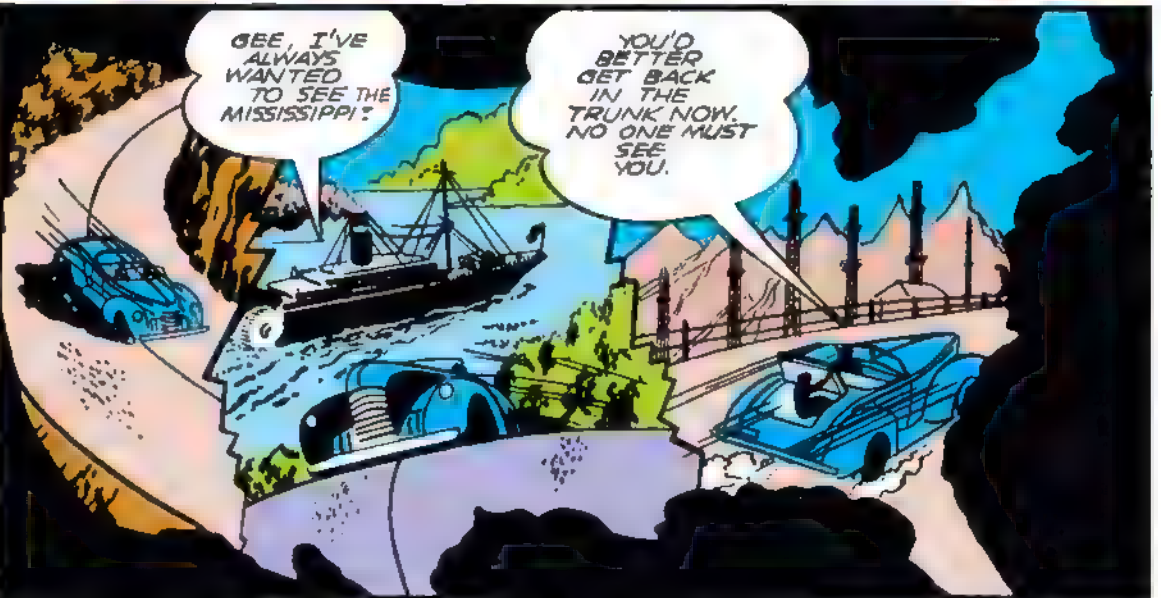
NO SOONER HAS LINDA LEFT THAN DICK GRAYSON, ALIAS ROBIN THE BOY WONDER, DARTS INTO THE ROOM---



I OVER-HEARD EVERYTHING.

LISTEN TO ME, THEN-- WE'VE GOT TO GET TO TEXAS BEFORE SOMETHING HAPPENS TO LINDA'S FATHER.

OVER THE RUGGED APPALACHIAN MOUNTAINS-- DOWN TO THE BANKS OF THE SLOUGGISH MISSISSIPPI RIVER-- ACROSS THOUSANDS OF MILES TO THE OIL FIELDS OF TEXAS SPEED BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON TO SWING THEIR FISTS IN NEW KNOCKOUT BLOWS AT THE JAWS OF CRIME!



GEE, I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO SEE THE MISSISSIPPI!

YOU'D BETTER GET BACK IN THE TRUNK NOW. NO ONE MUST SEE YOU.

A DRAMATIC SCENE AWAITS BRUCE AS HIS SWIFT AUTOMOBILE SLIDES BY THE ENTRANCE OF THE PAGE OIL COMPANY.



DICK--KEEP YOURSELF OUT OF SIGHT UNTIL THE TIME COMES FOR YOU TO CHANGE PARTS-- ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN AROUND HERE--

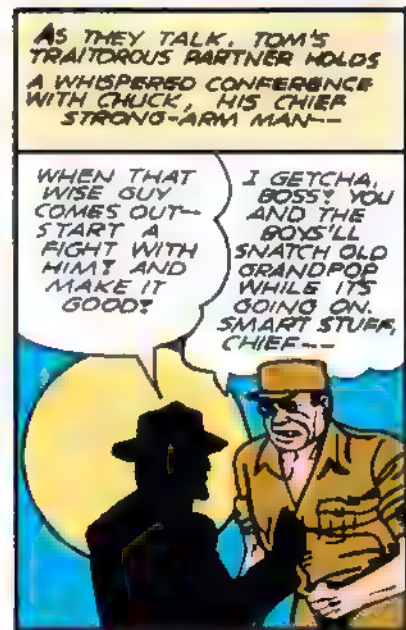
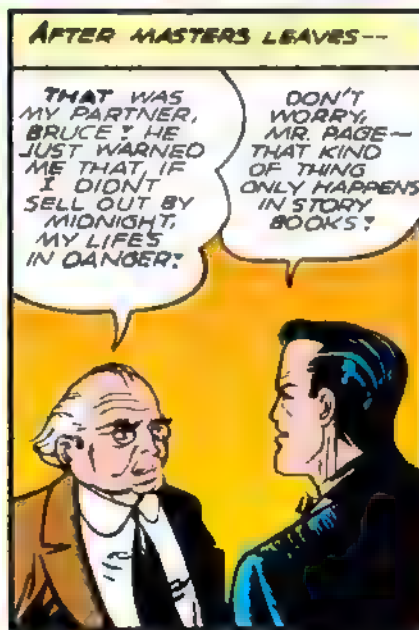
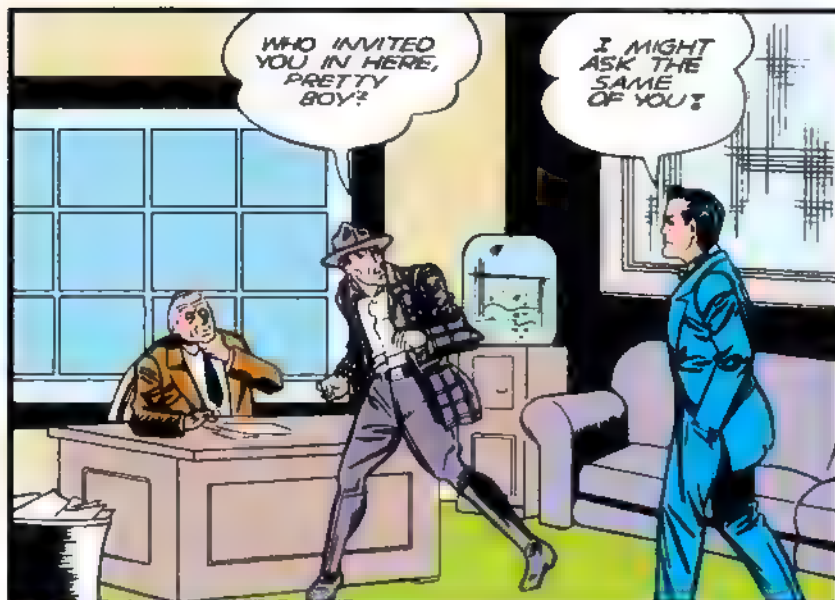
PAGE OIL COMPANY

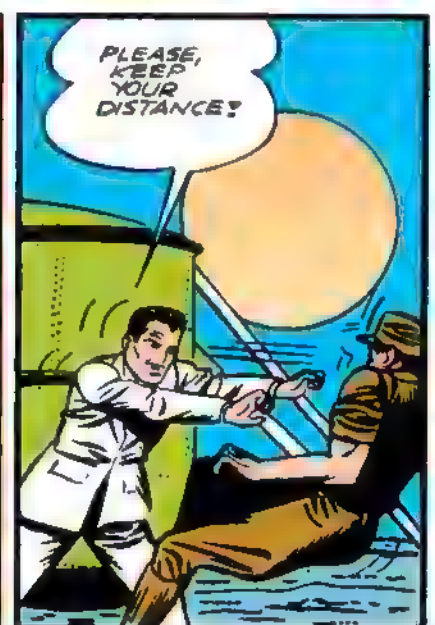
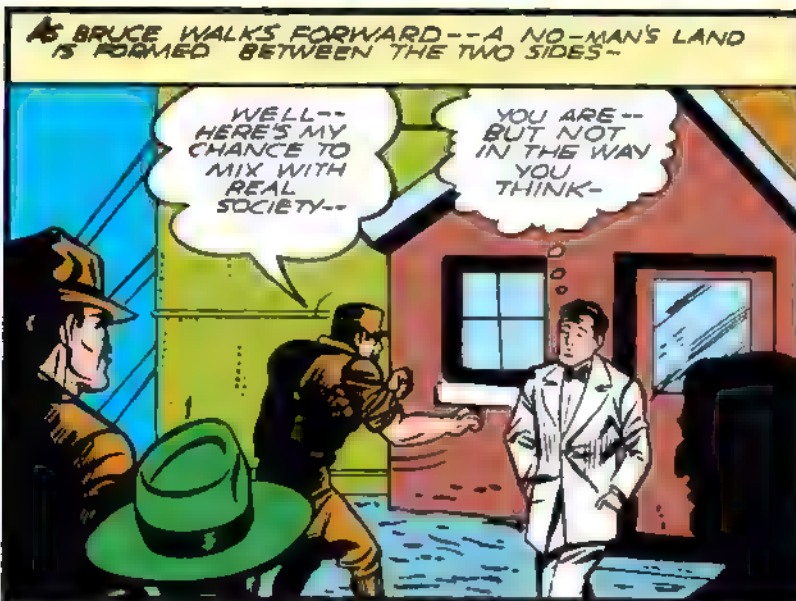
....AND ANYTHING DOES!



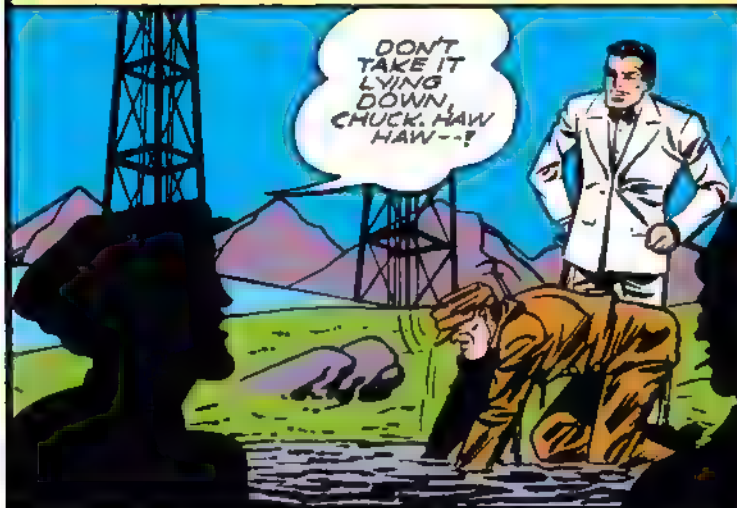
IT'S YOUR LAST CHANCE.

--AND YOURS, TOO!





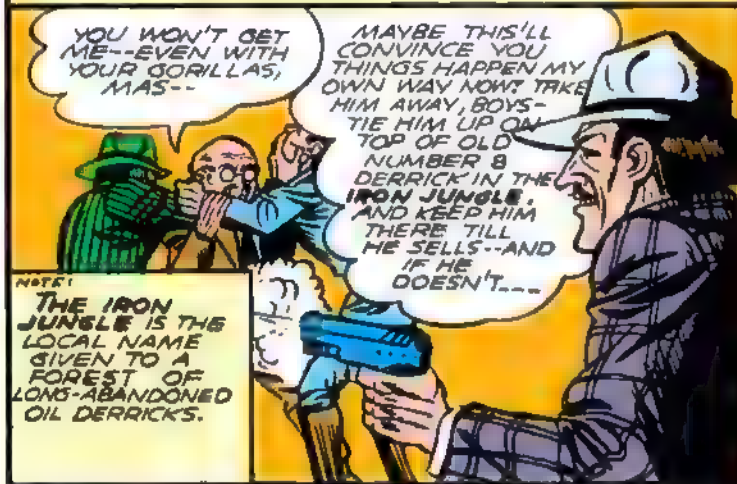
CHUCK IS MADE TO LOOK RIDICULOUS BEFORE HIS OWN MEN--



BRUCE'S STRATAGEM WORKS--CHUCK, INFURIATED, WADES INTO HIS OWN MEN!



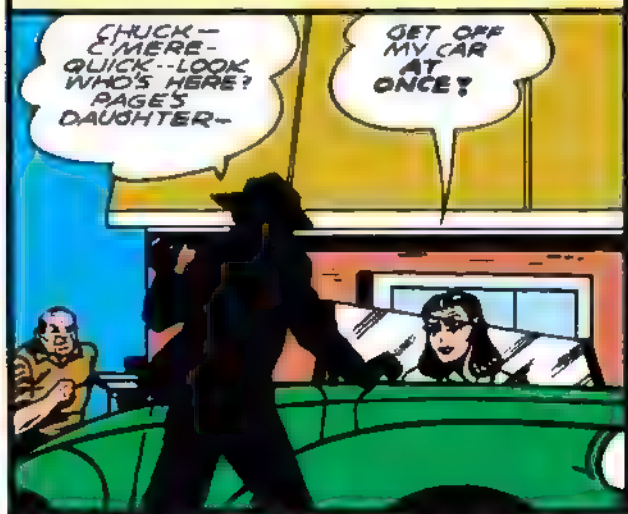
BUT AS BRUCE TEACHES CHUCK SOME MANNERS, GRAHAM MASTERS SNEAKS INTO TOM PAGE'S OFFICE-- THIS TIME HE BRINGS A BODYGUARD OF FOUR, ARMED HENCHMEN--

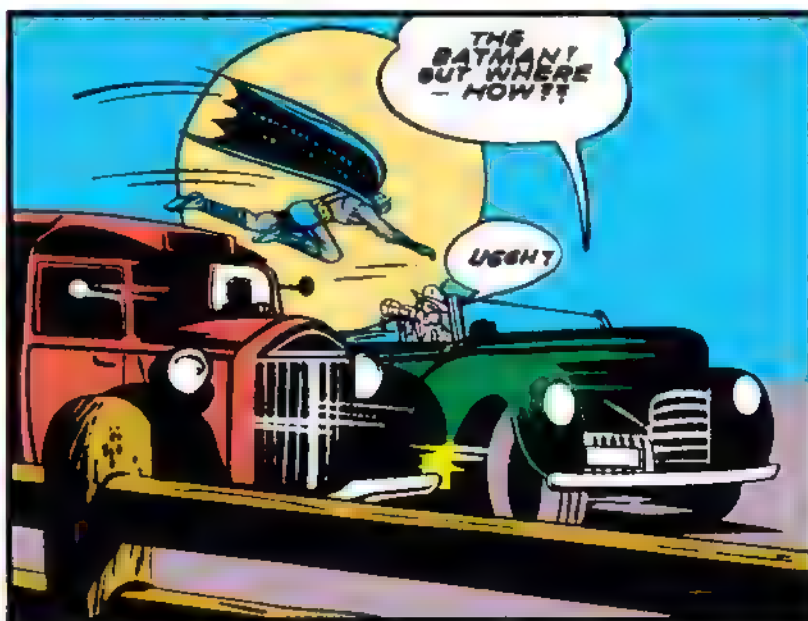
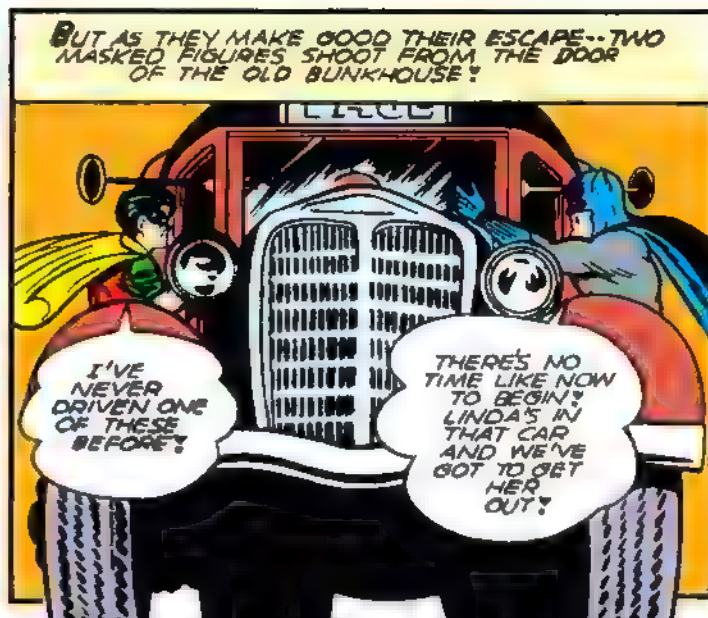


BUT OUTSIDE, NIGHT IS FALLING, AND BRUCE SLIPS AWAY TO THE OLD BUNK-HOUSE WHERE HE HAD AGREED TO MEET DICK--



MEANWHILE, A YELLOW ROADSTER PULLS UP-- AT THE VERY MOMENT MASTERS SNEAKS OUT OF THE OFFICE, LINDA PAGE HAS ARRIVED EARLIER THAN SHE PLANNED.

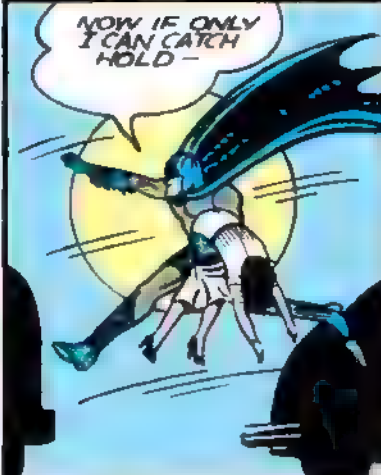




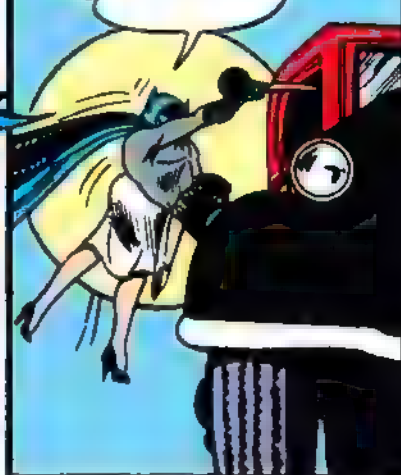
LIKE A BAT ON A SURF BOARD--
THE BATMAN RIDES THE SPEEDING
CAR'S MOMENTUM--



USING HIS SPRINGSBOARD
TAKE-OFF--HE LEAPS
WITH LINDA'S LIMP BODY
UNDER ONE ARM--



WHEW! MADE IT--
DUCK LOW AND
STEP ON IT,
ROBIN!



CHUCK MAKES A SHARP TURN AS MASTERS LOOSES
A HAIL OF BULLETS--AND AS EACH ONE RIPS INTO
THE OIL TANK--FLAMES STAB OUT OF THE BULLET
HOLES INTO THE DARKNESS?



LOOKS LIKE
THEY'RE DONE
FOR, BOSS?
THEY'LL BLOW
TO
PIECES?



AS MASTERS AND CHUCK SPEED BACK TO THE
PAGE OIL COMPANY, ROBIN SWINGS HIS
BLAZING TRUCK AROUND--AND GIVES CHASE
LIKE A FIERY COMET ON THE TRAIL OF
VENGEANCE? ANY MOMENT THEY FEAR THE
THE TERRIBLE EXPLOSION, WHICH IS BOUND TO COME



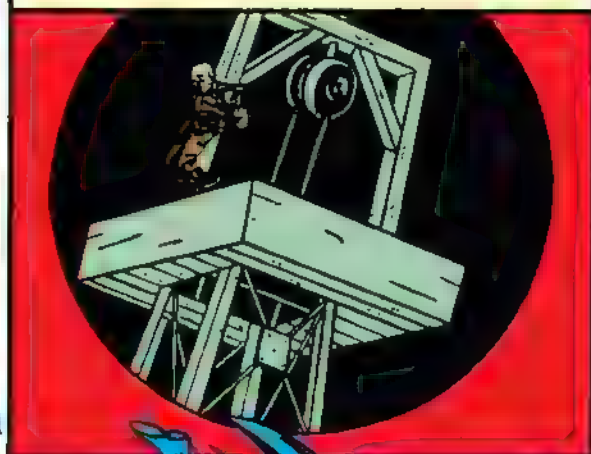
INTO THE LAST LAP SPEEDS THE TRUCK--
A MONSTER BON FIRE LASHING OUT WITH
SCARLET OIL FOR WHIST AS IT SCREECHES
TO A HALT ROBIN AND THE BATMAN,
LINDA UNDER THE LATTER'S ARM, LEAP--AND
NONE TOO SOON--



WITH PANTHER-LIKE MOVEMENT, THE BATMAN TRAILS HIS QUARRY INTO THE DENSE SEMI-TROPICAL UNDERGROWTH THAT SWARMS ALL OVER THE IRON JUNGLE?

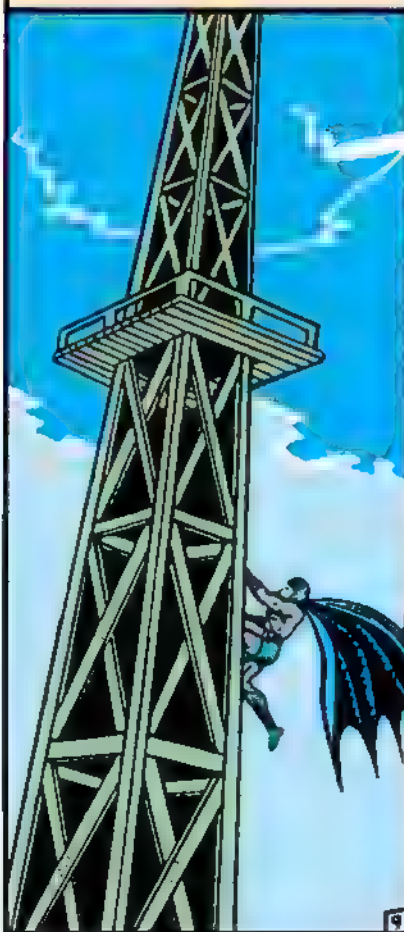


THE BATMAN SCOUTS THRU THE THICKETS. IN THE GLARE OF THE COMING STORM'S FIRST FLASH OF LIGHTNING, HE SEES TOM PAGE LASHED TO THE TOPMOST GIRDER OF A DESERTED DERRICK?

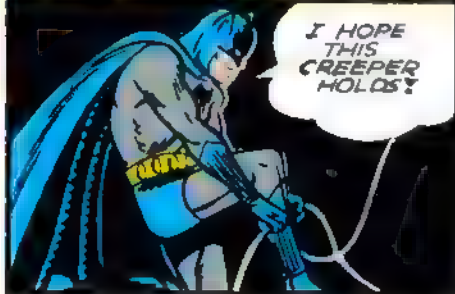


LIGHTNING RENDS THE SKY, ILLUMINATING THE BATMAN AS HE LEAPS....

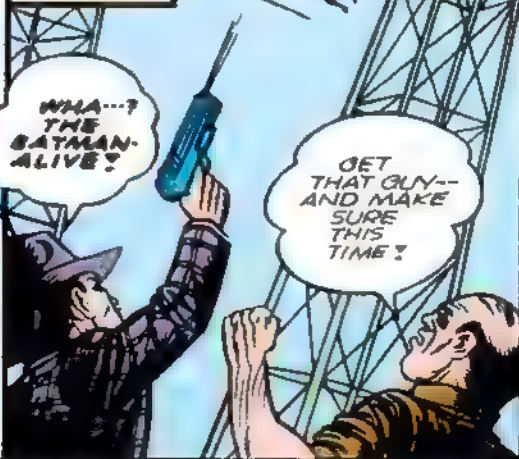
INSTANTLY, THE BATMAN SCALES THE VERY NEXT DERRICK. LIGHTNING FLARES WEIRDLY ON THE UNCANNY SCENE---



REACHING THE TOWER'S TOP, THE BATMAN GRASPS A GIANT CREEPER--MAKING READY FOR A DEATH-DEFYING GLIDE?

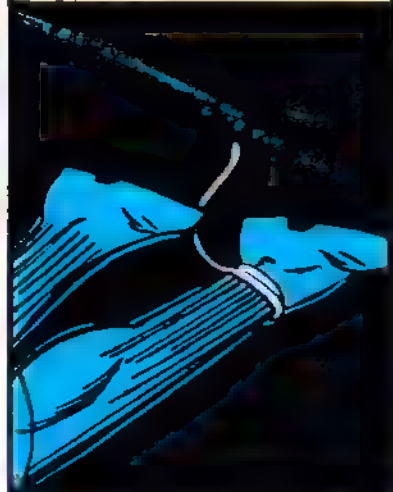


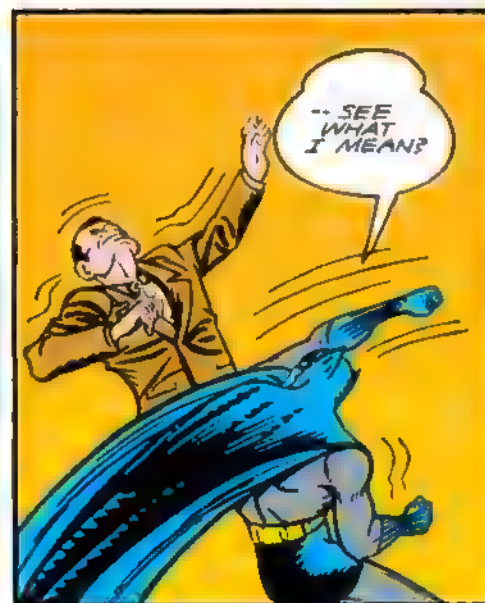
THE GUNMEN'S WEAPONS HURL SUDDEN DEATH!

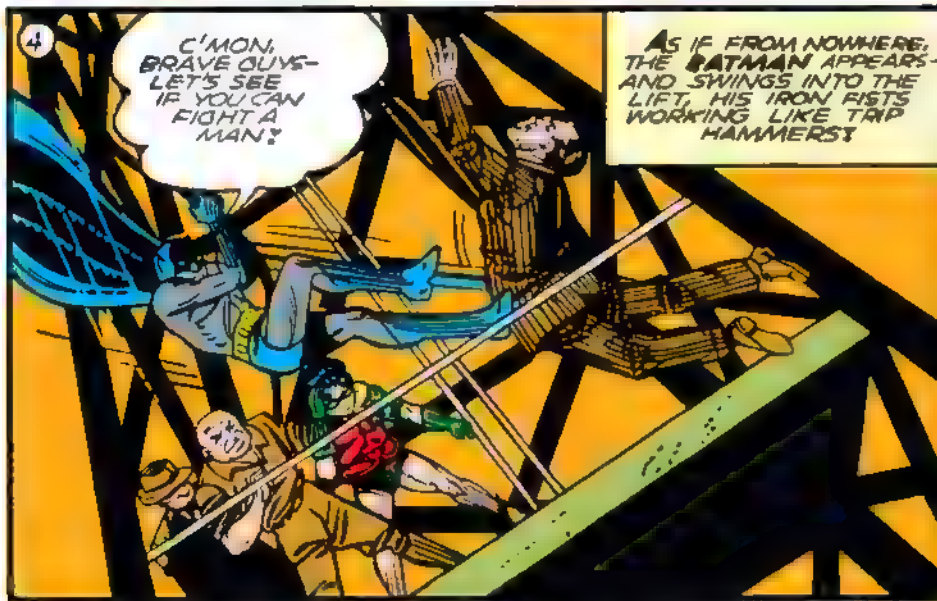
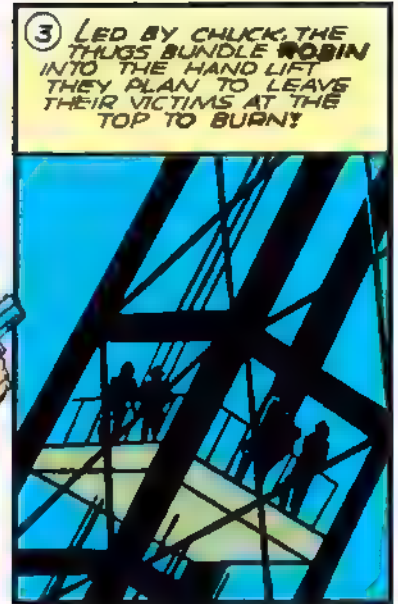


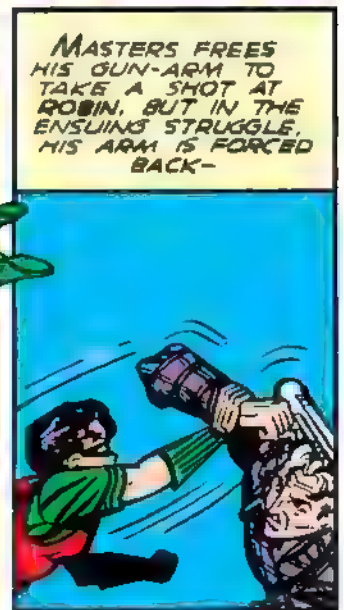
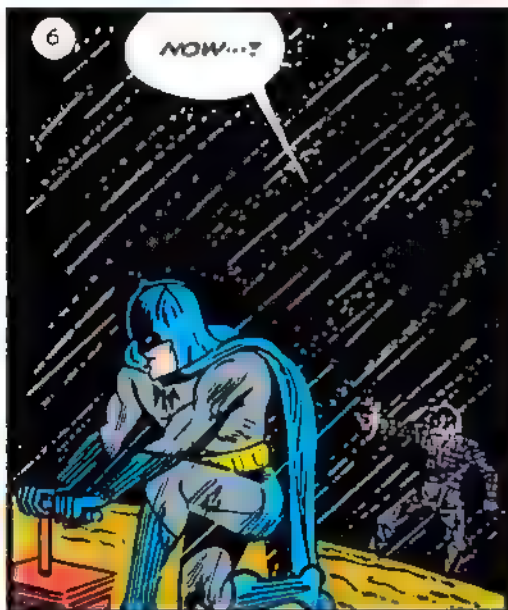
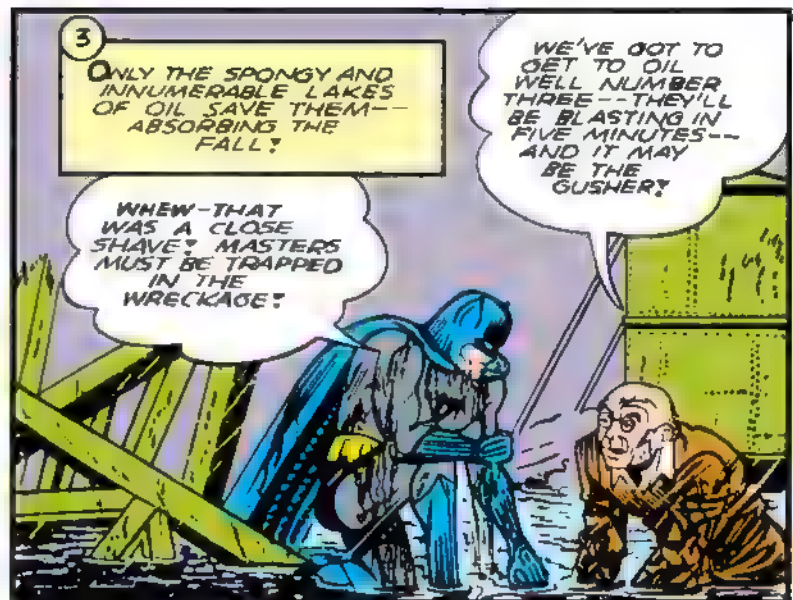
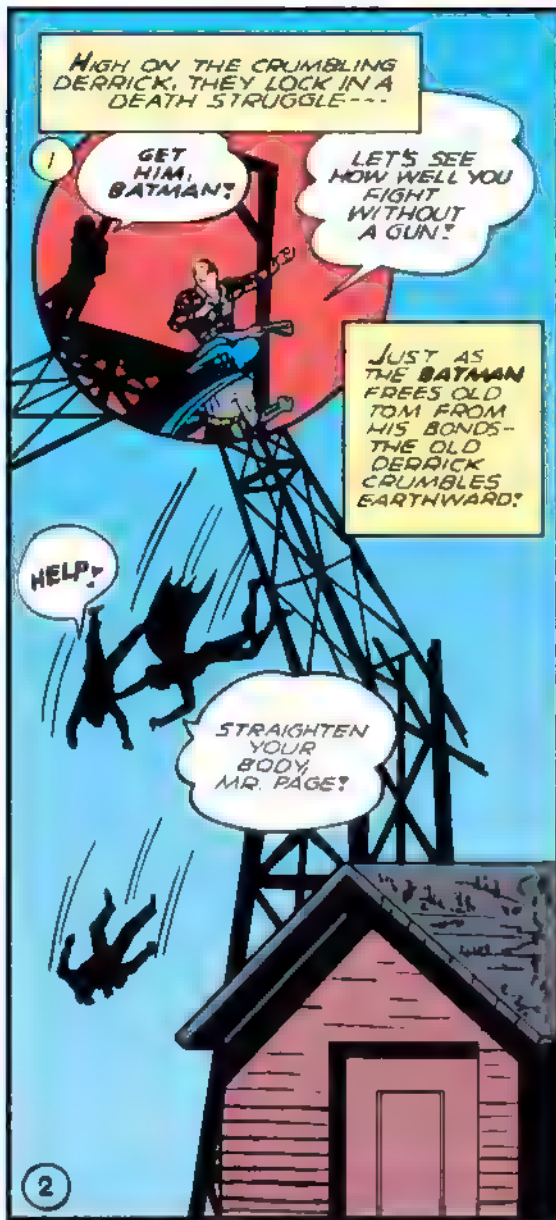
WHA...? THE BATMAN-- ALIVE?

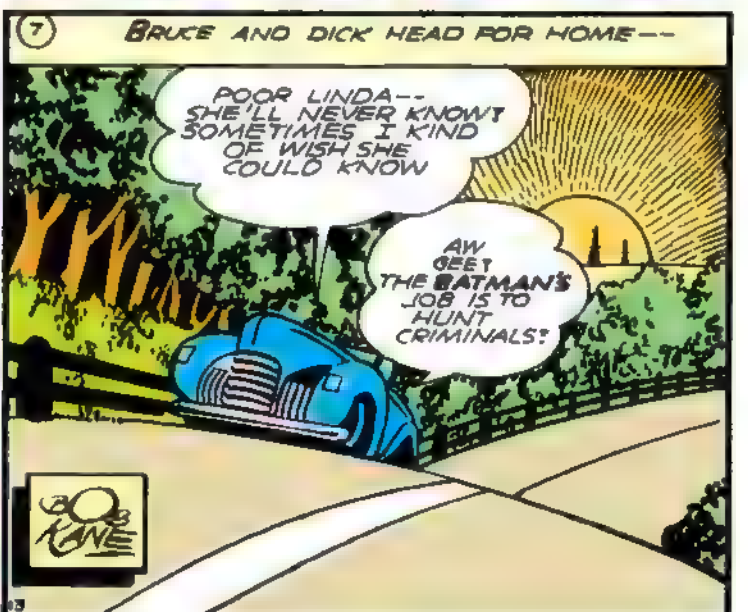
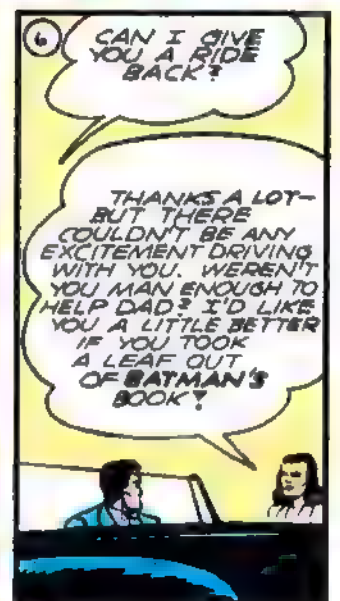
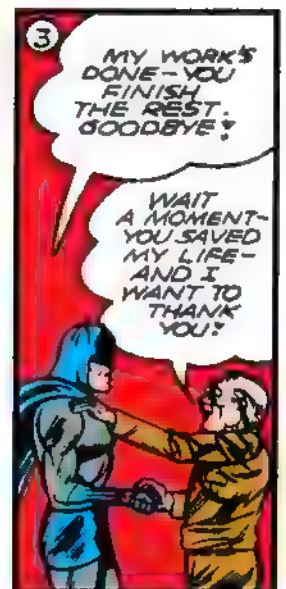
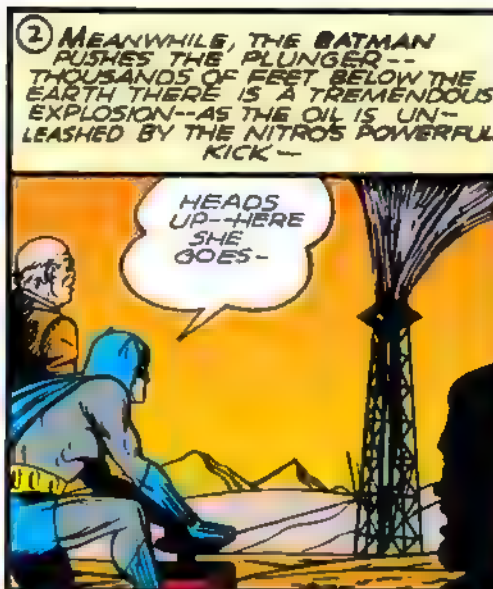
THE STREAM OF BULLETS SEVER THE CREEPER-- THE BATMAN'S SOLE LINK WITH THE WORLD?











BAT MAN

WITH
Robin
- THE BOY WONDER -

BOB
KANE

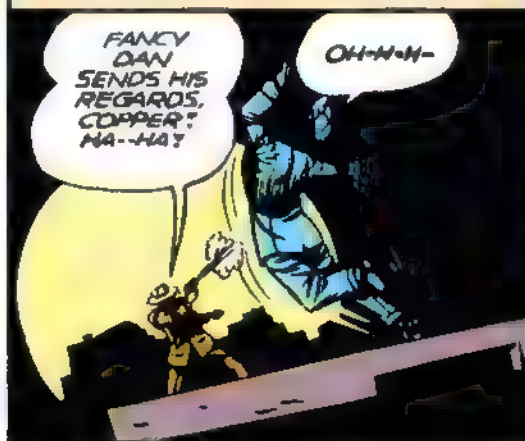
WHEN KILLERS MOCK THE LAW
AND TAUNT THE BLUE-COATED PRO-
TECTORS OF SOCIETY, THEN IT IS
TIME FOR THE BATMAN TO MAKE HIS
TIMELY ENTRANCE! WITH HIS LAUGHING
YOUNG AIDE, ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER,
THIS MASTER CRIME-SMASHER PEN-
ETRATES THE HIDDEN LAIR OF THE
DENIZENS OF THE UNDERWORLD
AND MEETS THEIR MEASURES WITH
SWIFT ACTIONS OF HIS OWN!
FOLLOW THE BATMAN NOW AS
HE FARES FORTH ON ANOTHER
MISSION...FERRETING OUT AND
CRUSHING THE EVIL ON---
"SUICIDE BEAT!"

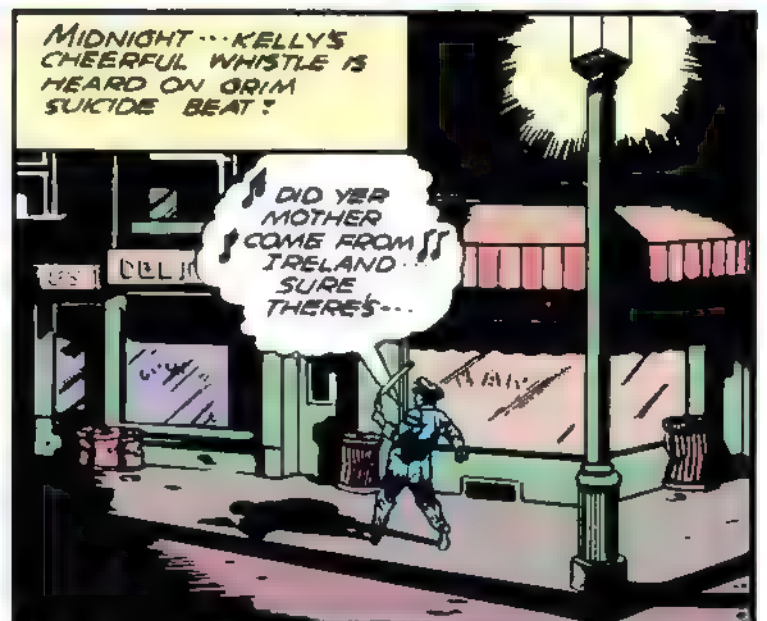
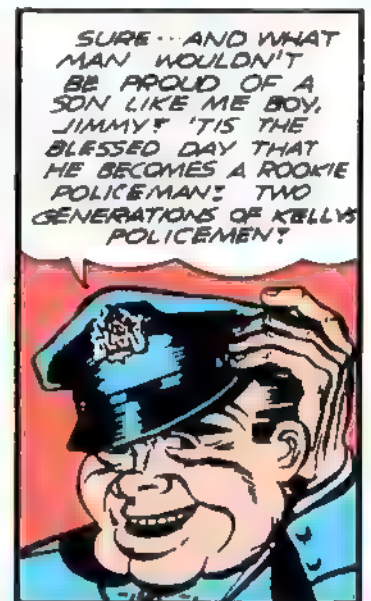
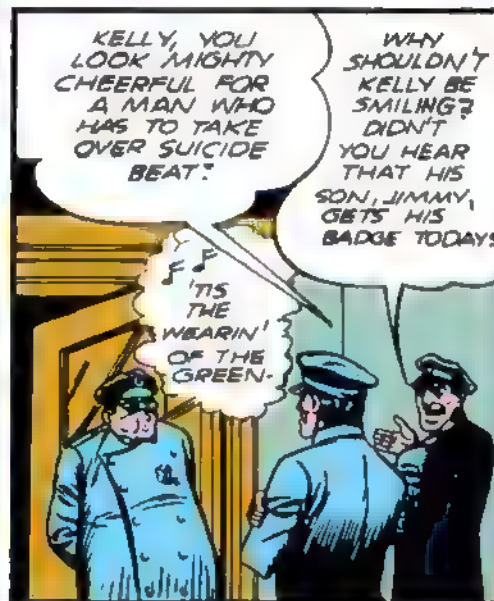
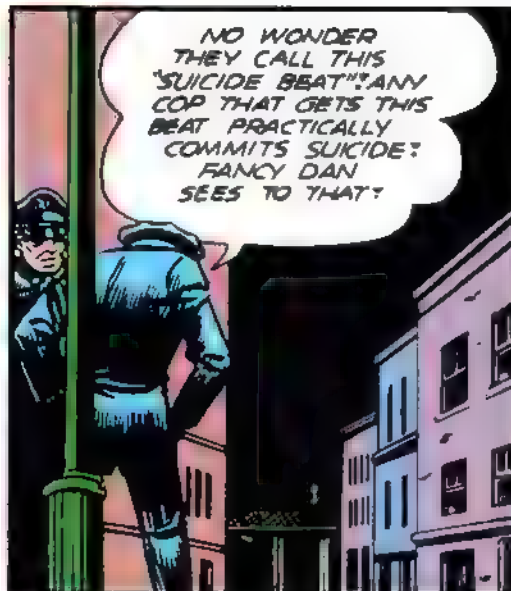


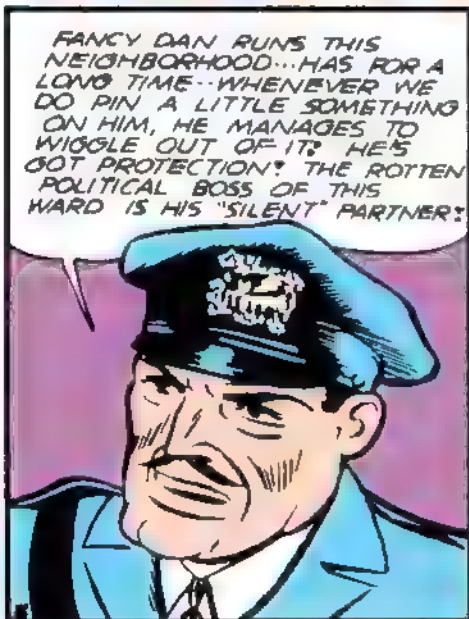
NIGHT SOUNDS?...A SHOT...A
GROAN...AND A LAUGH!

FANCY
DAN
SENDS HIS
REGARDS,
COPPER!
HA--HA!

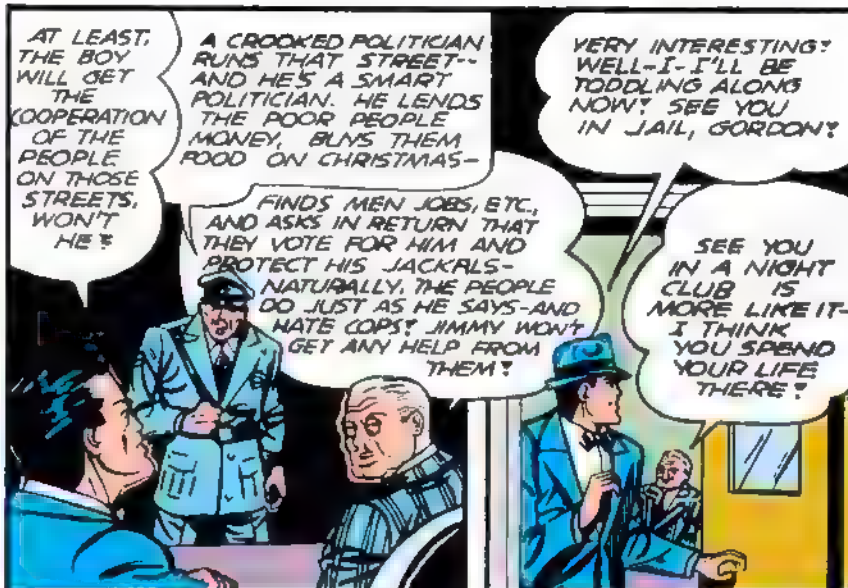
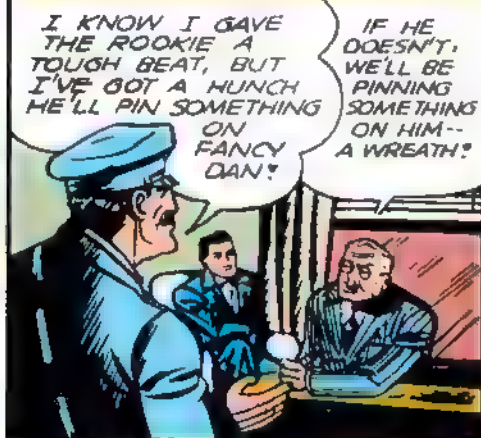
OH-N-N-

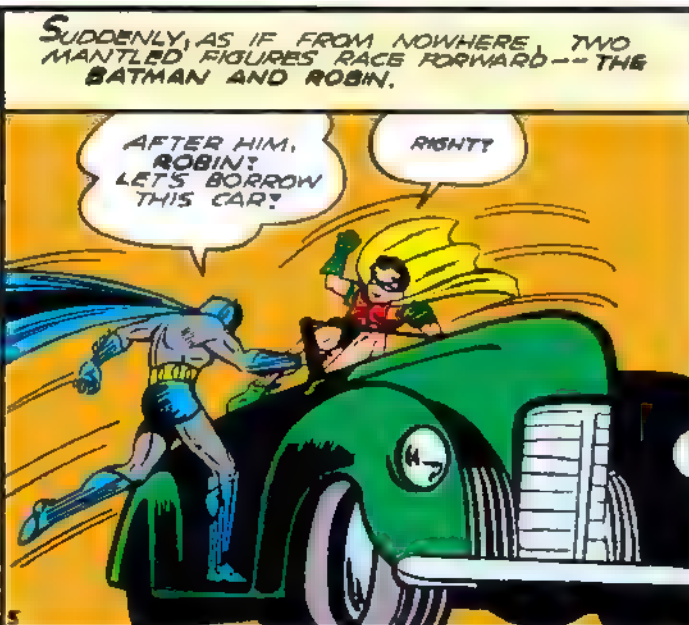
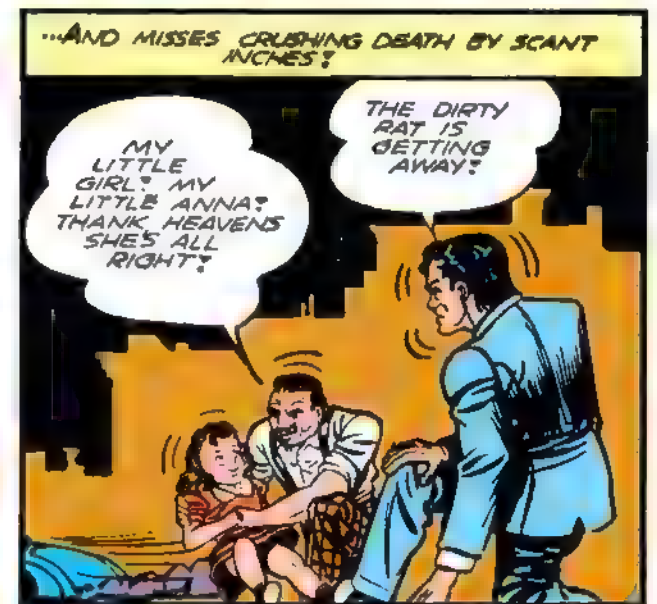
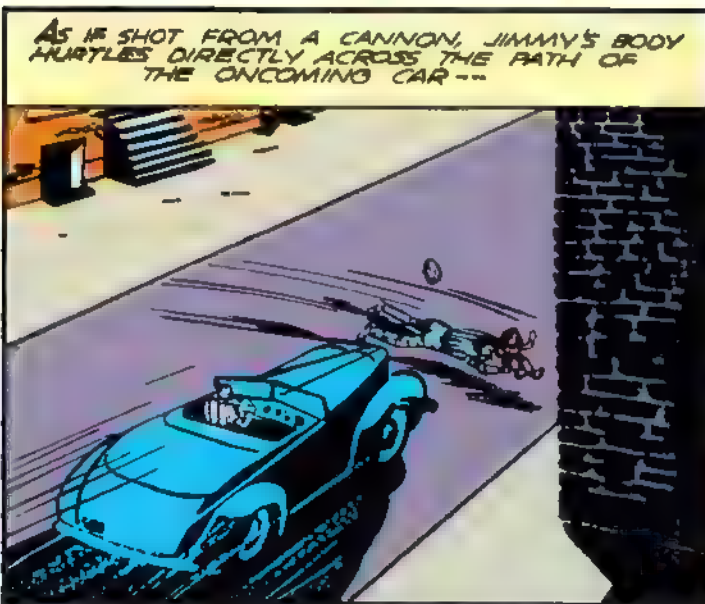
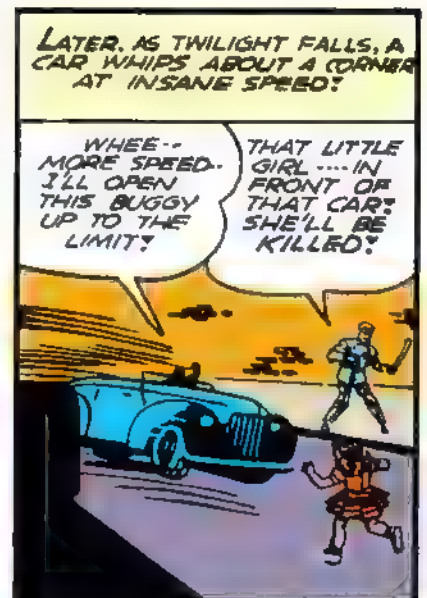
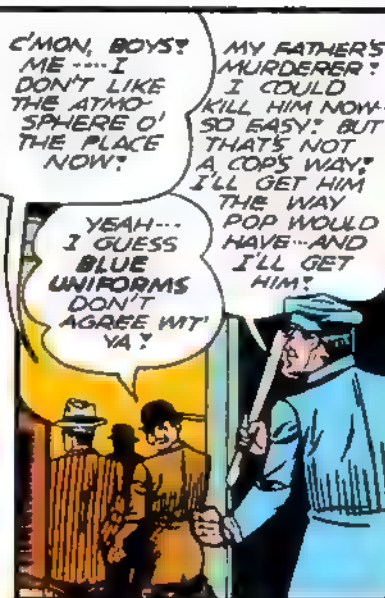




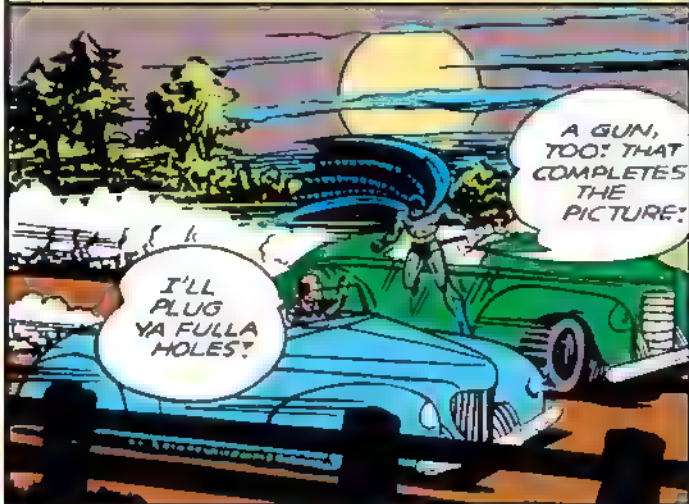


THE NEXT MORNING... BRUCE WAYNE, SOCIETY PLAYBOY, SITS IN THE OFFICES OF HIS FRIEND, POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON---

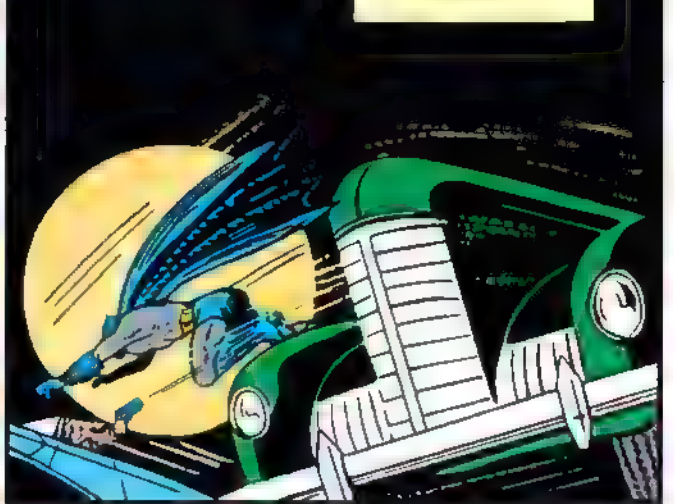




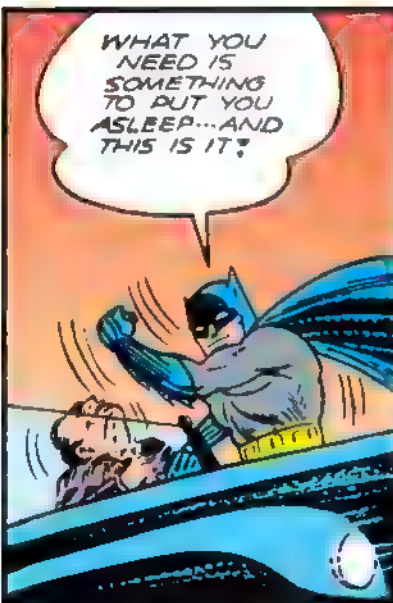
ON SCREAMING TIRES, THEY DRAW AHEAD OF THE DRUNKEN DRIVER'S RACING CAR---



A DARING LEAP---



WHAT YOU NEED IS SOMETHING TO PUT YOU ASLEEP...AND THIS IS IT?



MINUTES LATER---

HERE, TAKE CARE OF THIS RAT? ADIOS?

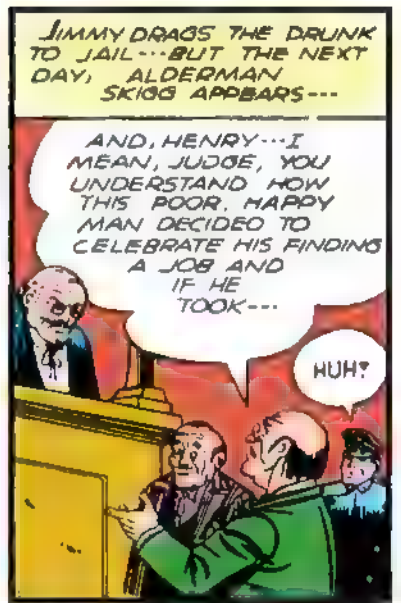
THE BATMAN? HOW?...



JIMMY DRAGS THE DRUNK TO JAIL...BUT THE NEXT DAY, ALDERMAN SKIGG APPEARS---

AND, HENRY...I MEAN, JUDGE, YOU UNDERSTAND HOW THIS POOR, HAPPY MAN DECIDED TO CELEBRATE HIS FINDING A JOB AND IF HE TOOK---

HUH?



AND A LITTLE LATER---

SO YA GOT HIM OUT, EH, SKIGG?

DON'T I ALWAYS GET YOUR BOYS OUT?

NOW WHAT DO WE DO--PLUG THE COPPER?



NO? GET RID OF HIM, BUT NO SHOOTING--THREE DEAD COPS IN A ROW MIGHT BRING DOWN THE GOVERNOR?

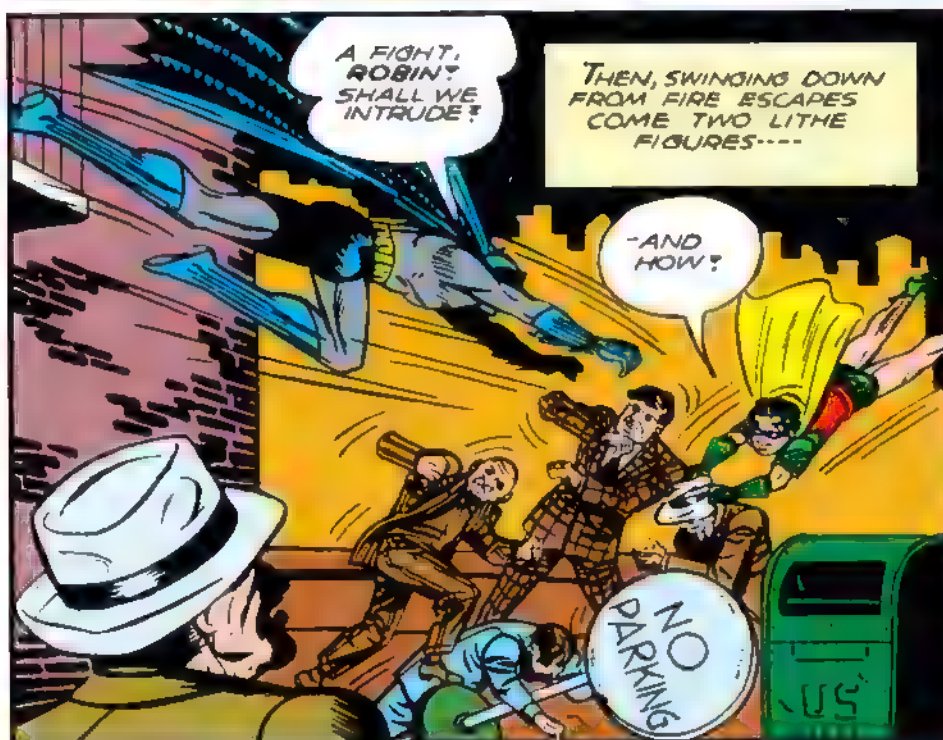
SKIGG IS RIGHT? WE'LL JUST MUSS HIM UP ENOUGH SO THAT HE GOES TO THE HOSPITAL? ME---I GOT AN IDEA?



THAT VERY NIGHT...SUICIDE BEAT LIES CLOAKED IN SILENCE AND DARKNESS. SUDDENLY...THE SOUND OF A SCUFFLE---



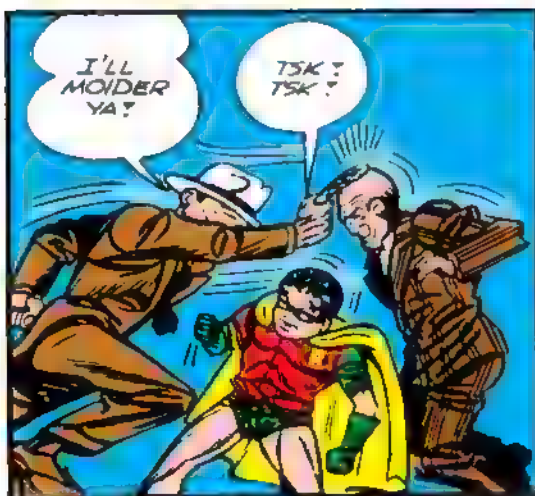
BUT AS JIMMY TRIES TO SEPARATE THE TWO, THEY SUDDENLY TURN ON HIM....AND OUT OF THE SHADOWS LEAP MORE THUGS?



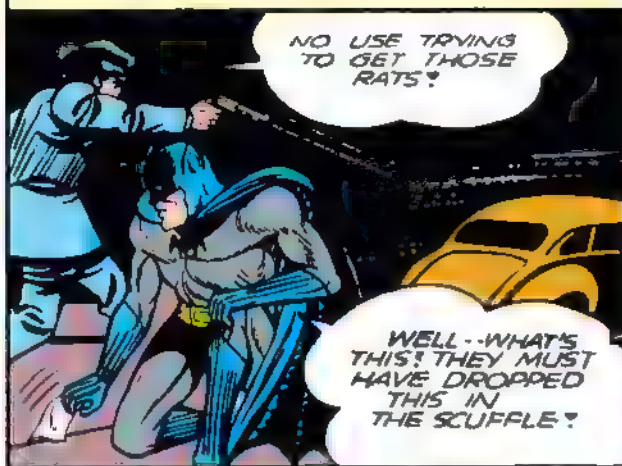
THE BATMAN'S FIST FLASHES OUT WITH THE DEAD-LINESS OF A STRIKING SNAKE?



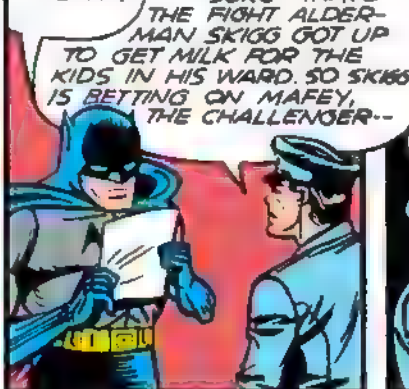
AND NOW, JIMMY HAS RECOVERED.....



SUDDENLY, A CAR SHOOTS FROM BEHIND A CORNER---STOPS LONG ENOUGH TO PICK UP THE HOODLUMS, AND THEN SPEEDS AWAY-----



"PUT 5 GRAND ON MAFEY. (SIGNED) SKIGG" SAY, ISN'T MAFEY THE FIGHTER WHO BATTLES JORGAN, THE CHAMP, TOMORROW NIGHT AT THE MILK FUND FIGHT?



AND JORGAN IS THE CHAMP; IF I KNOW SKIGG, THAT CHEAP MISER WOULDN'T BET ON SOME THING UNLESS HE WAS SURE OF IT?

I'VE GOT A HUNCH THIS FIGHT HAS BEEN FRAMED--IN FACT, I'M ALMOST SURE! I THINK I'M GOING TO PUT THE SKIDS UNDER ALDERMAN SKIGG?



THE NEXT NIGHT---ALDERMAN SKIGG ADDRESSES THE HUGE CROWD IN THE STADIUM---



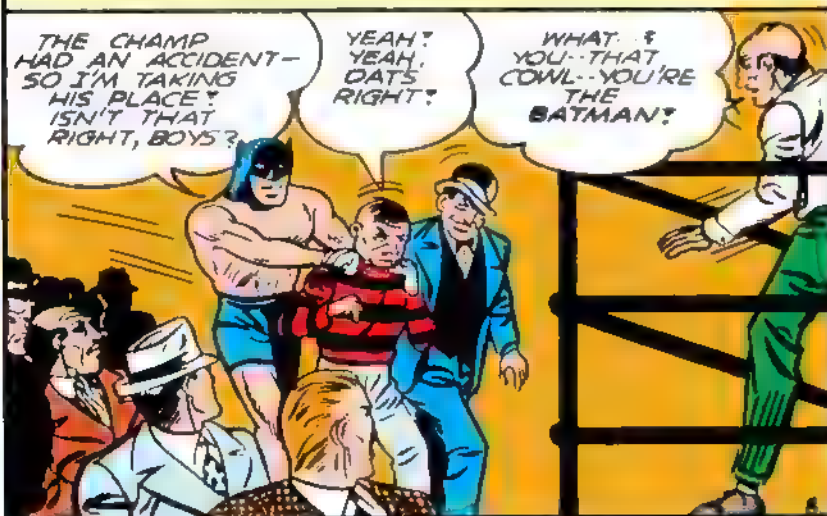
AND IN THE CHAMP'S DRESSING ROOM, A SHADOW MOVES ACROSS THE WALL---



IN THE RING --- THE CHALLENGER, BIFF MAFEY, ACKNOWLEDGES THE PLAUDITS OF THE CROWD.



SUDDENLY---WALKING DOWN THE AISLE---THE CHAMP'S TRAINER AND MANAGER WITH THE BATMAN---



BUT YOU CAN'T TAKE HIS PLACE. IT ISN'T...I MEAN--THE CROWD DON'T WANT A SUBSTITUTE?



THE CROWD COMES TO A UNANIMOUS DECISION---

YES? WE WANT THE BATMAN!

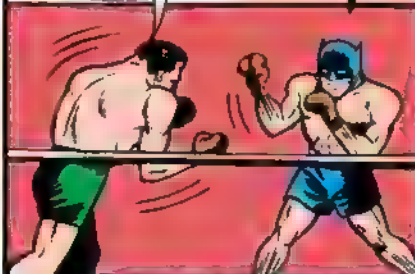
WE WANT THE BATMAN!



THE BELL CLANGS FOR THE FIRST ROUND---THE FIGHT IS ON--

THE BATMAN, EH? WELL, HERE'S WHERE I MAKE YOU LOOK LIKE A PUNK!

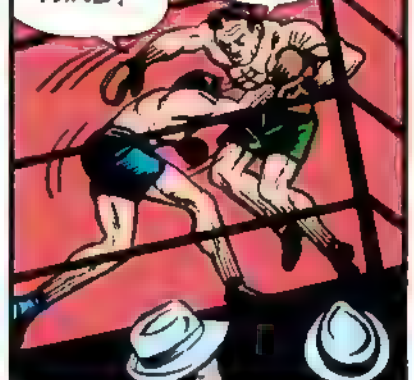
STOP TALKING AND FIGHT--



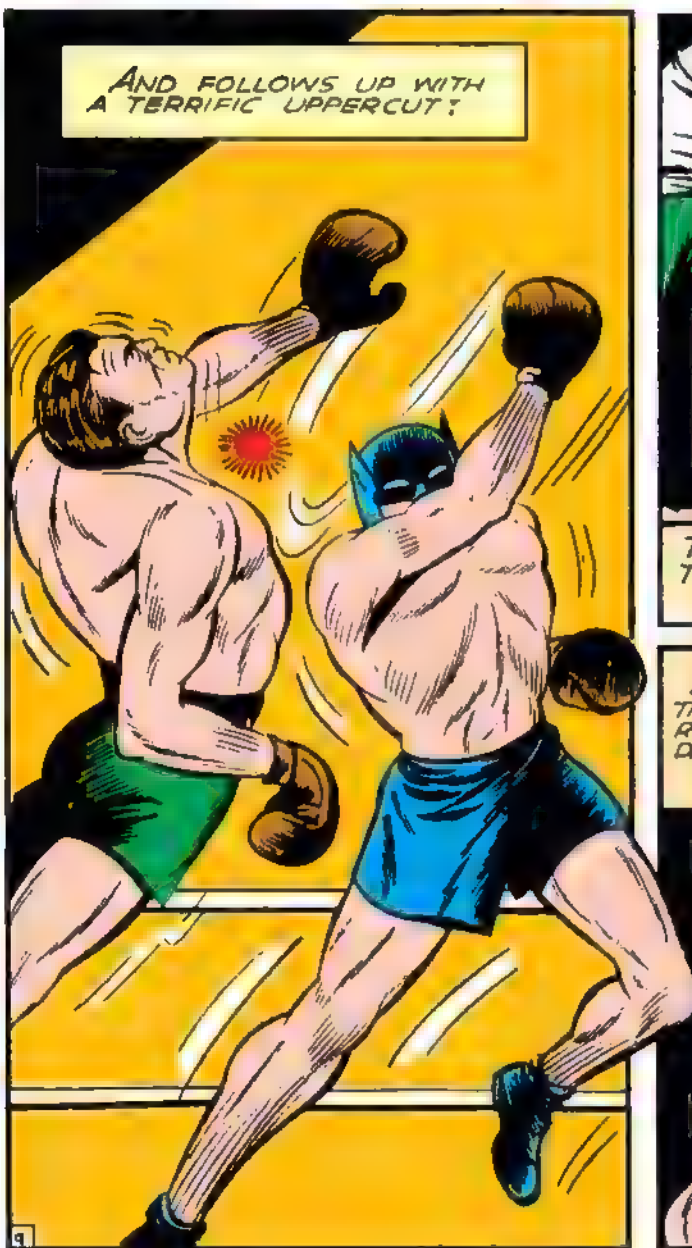
THE BATMAN EASILY SLIPS UNDER A ROUND-HOUSE RIGHT---

JUST A BIG BAG OF WIND?

I'LL... WHOOSH!!

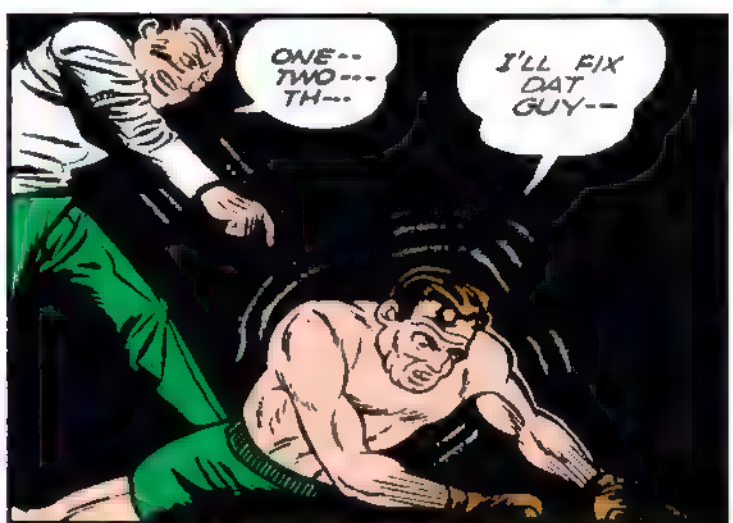


AND FOLLOWS UP WITH A TERRIFIC UPPERCUT?



ONE-- TWO-- TH--

I'LL FIX DAT GUY--



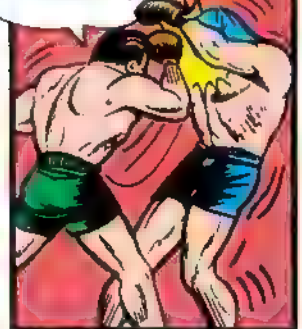
THE CHALLENGER RUBS HIS GLOVE INTO THE CANVAS THAT BEARS THE RESIN FROM THEIR SHOE SOLES----

AS HE RISES, HE SPEARS THE BATMAN IN THE FACE, RUBBING THE RESIN-DABBED GLOVE INTO THE BATMAN'S EYES...

FOR THE MOMENT, THE BATMAN'S EYES ARE BLINDED...HE FACES EASY PREY TO FISTS THAT SNEAK PAST HIS GUARD



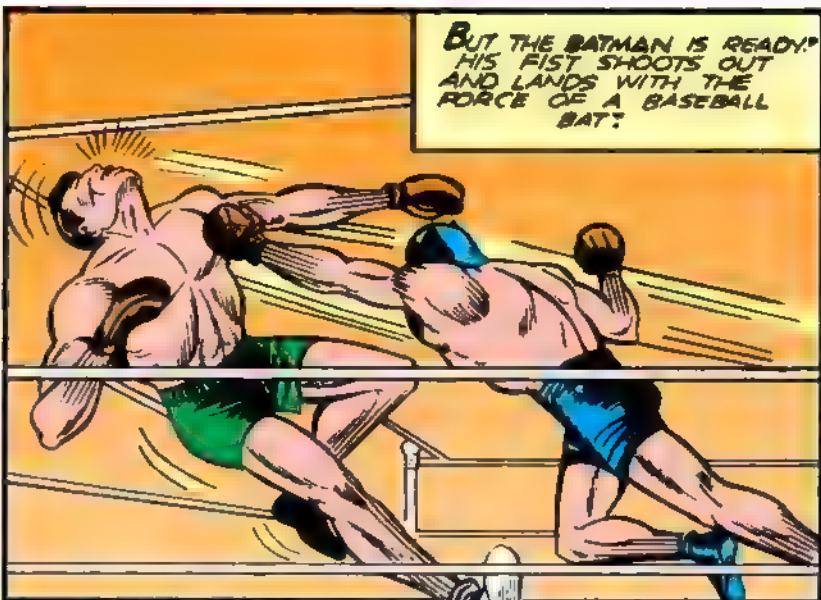
HOW DO YOU LIKE THEM ONIONS, BATMAN?



THROUGH BLURRED VISION, HE SEES MAFEY RUSH AT HIM FOR THE KILL....

GET READY TO KISS THAT CANVAS, CHUM?

BUT THE BATMAN IS READY! HIS FIST SHOOTS OUT AND LANDS WITH THE FORCE OF A BASEBALL BAT!



THERE IS NO NEED FOR A COUNT. MAFEY IS OUT...BUT DEFINITELY?

SUDDENLY, LIGHTS WINK OUT OVER THE STADIUM...

AND WHEN THEY FLASH ON AGAIN AFTER A FEW MOMENTS...

THE WINNAH... THE BATMAN?

BATMAN?

BATMAN?

WHO TURNED OUT THE LIGHTS?

WHAT'S HAPPENED?

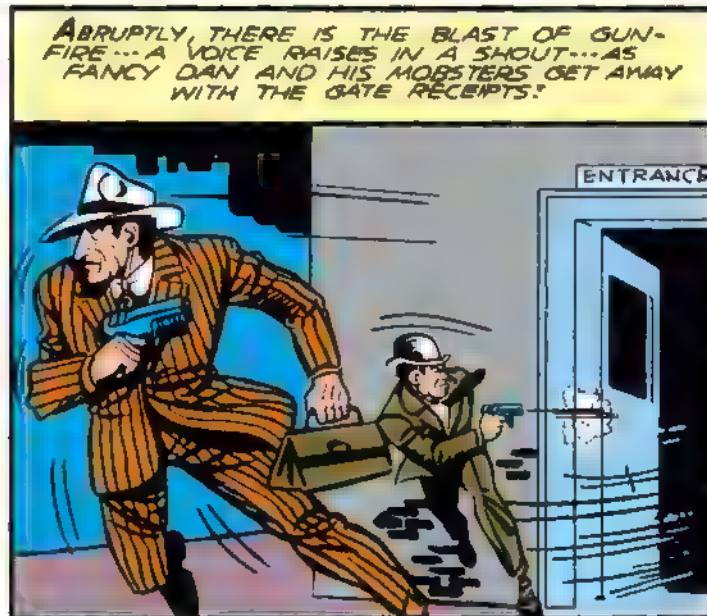
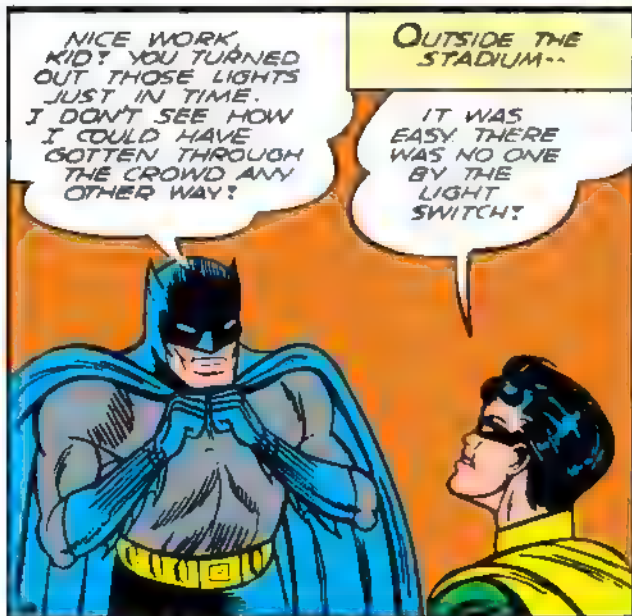
HUH? HE'S GONE? THE BATMAN'S GONE?

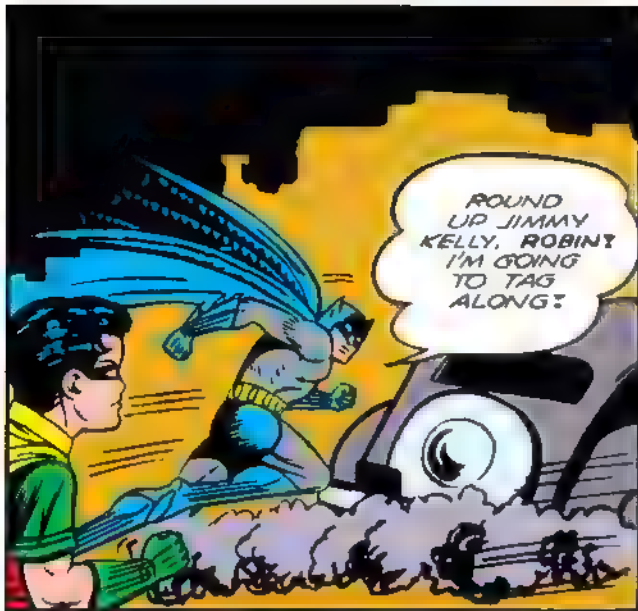
NICE WORK, KID? YOU TURNED OUT THOSE LIGHTS JUST IN TIME. I DON'T SEE HOW I COULD HAVE GOTTEN THROUGH THE CROWD ANY OTHER WAY?

OUTSIDE THE STADIUM--

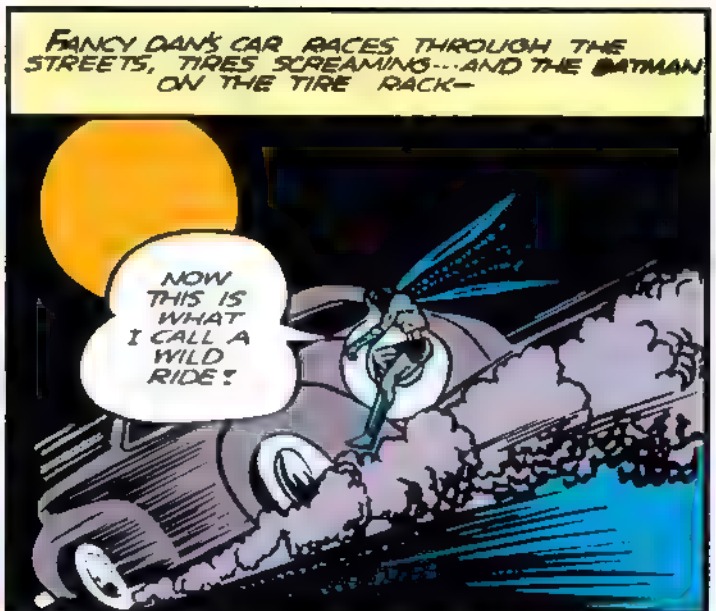
IT WAS EASY. THERE WAS NO ONE BY THE LIGHT SWITCH?

ABRUPTLY, THERE IS THE BLAST OF GUN-FIRE... A VOICE RAISES IN A SHOUT...AS FANCY DAN AND HIS MOBSTERS GET AWAY WITH THE GATE RECEIPTS?



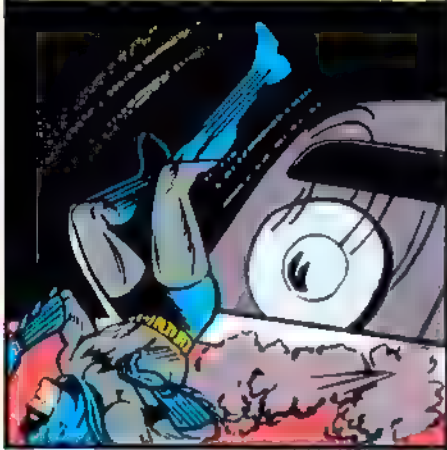


ROUND UP JIMMY KELLY, ROBIN? I'M GOING TO TAG ALONG?



NOW THIS IS WHAT I CALL A WILD RIDE!

WITH A SUDDEN ABRUPTNESS, THE CAR JERKS TO A HALT? SO SUDDEN IS THE STOP THAT THE BATMAN IS HURLED FROM HIS PERCH TO CRASH AGAINST THE OUTTER?



WHEN HE COMES TO--



HELLO, FANCY DAN? SO -- NOT ONLY DO YOU AND SKIGGS RIG UP A PHONEY FIGHT, BUT YOU ALSO STEAL THE PROCEEDS?

SHADDUP! ME-- I DON'T LIKE YOU! I'M GONNA MAKE IT HOT FOR YOU-- GOOD AND HOT?

GASOLINE? YOU WEREN'T KIDDING WHEN YOU SAID YOU WERE GOING TO MAKE IT HOT FOR ME?



ME... I NEVER KID? SO LONG, WISE GUY?

THE LIGHTED MATCH HITS THE GASOLINE-IMPREGNATED FLOOR? THERE IS A SUDDEN WHOOSH--AND THE ROOM IS TRANSFORMED INTO A ROARING INFERNO?



I'M IN A SPOT?

AT THAT VERY MOMENT ...



HE MUST HAVE FOLLOWED FANCY DAN TO HIS HIDEOUT?

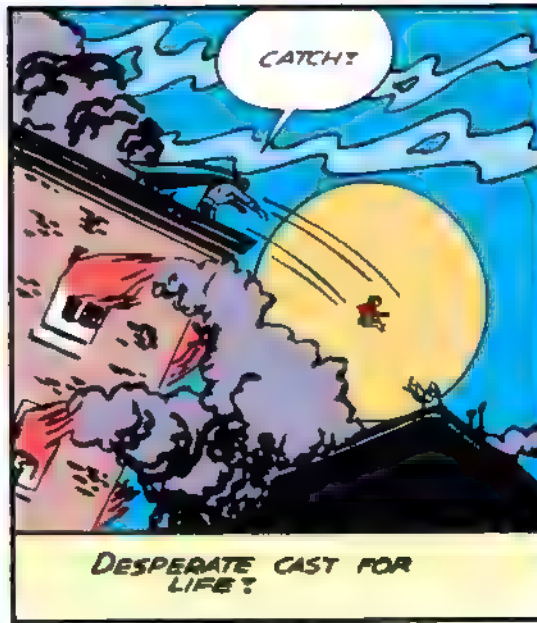
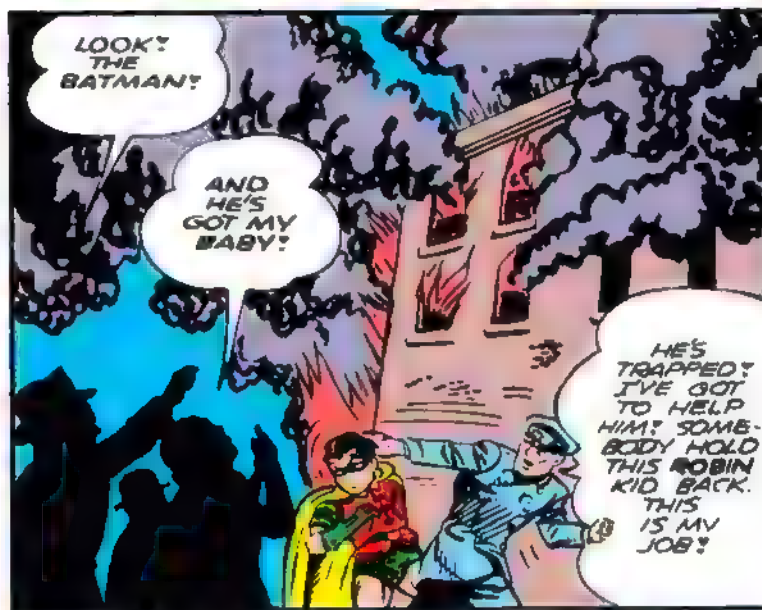
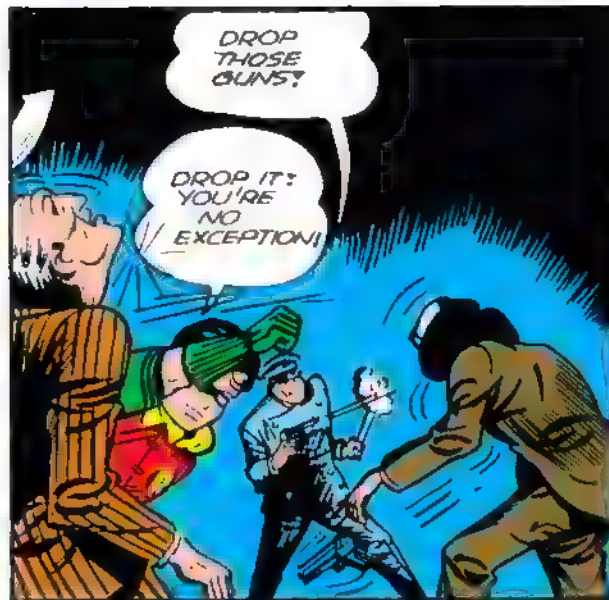
I--I CAN TELL YOU WHERE IT IS?

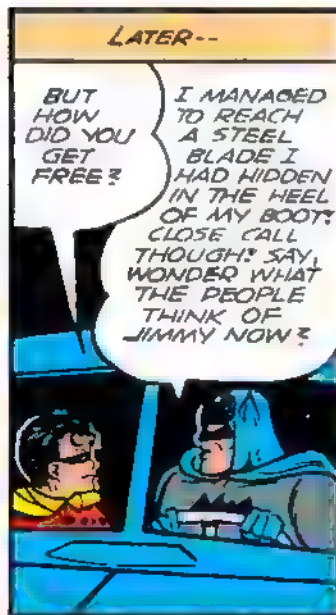
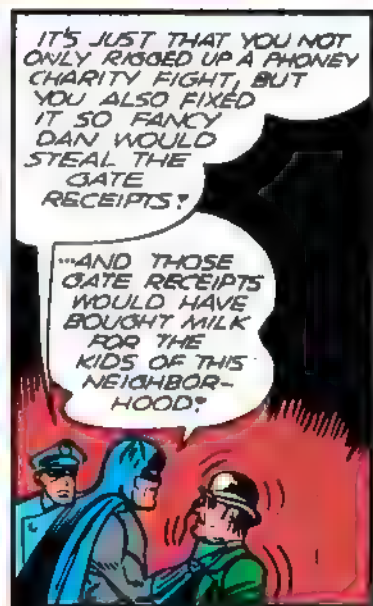
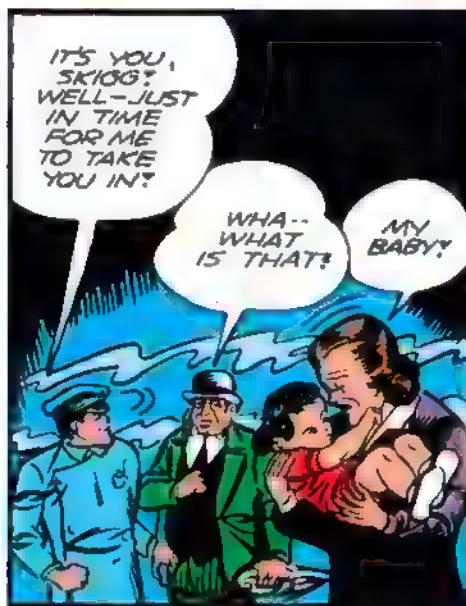
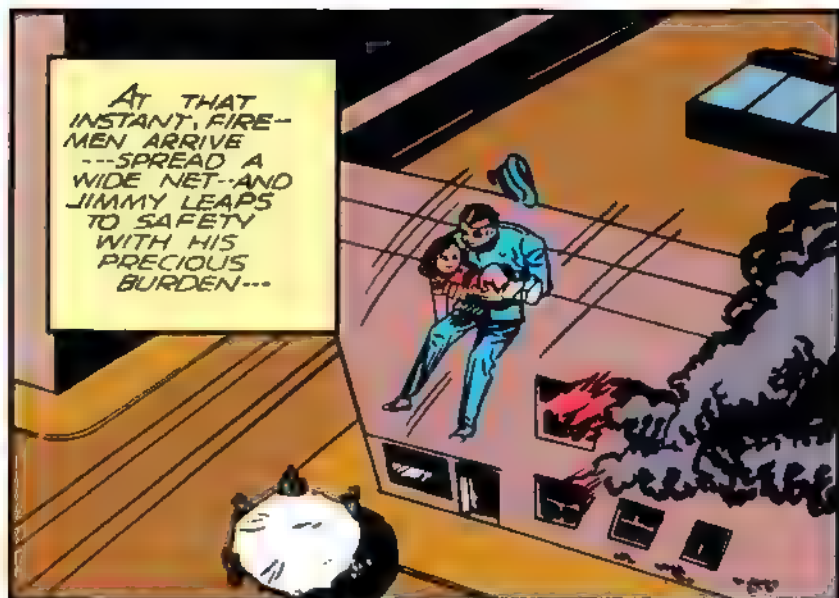
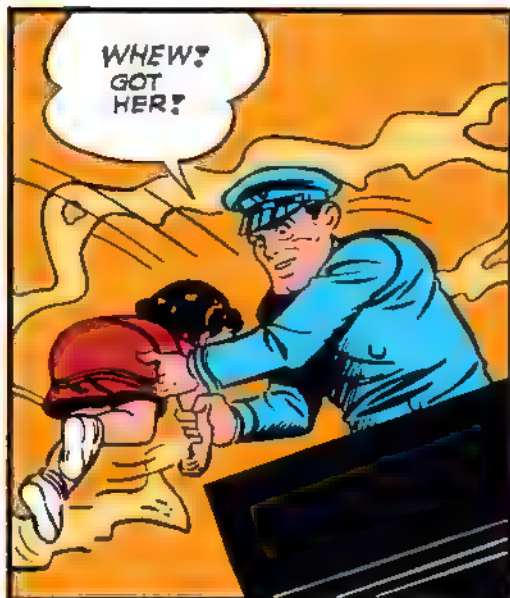
BUT WHERE?

YOU SAVED MY LITTLE GIRL ANNA'S LIFE? THE LEAST I CAN DO IS REPAY YOU THIS WAY? I SAW FANCY DAN AND HIS MOB TAKE THE BATMAN INTO NO. 14 ON THE NEXT STREET?



SOMEONE ON SUICIDE BEAT HELPING A COP? I CAN'T BELIEVE IT?







No. 55

Detective COMICS

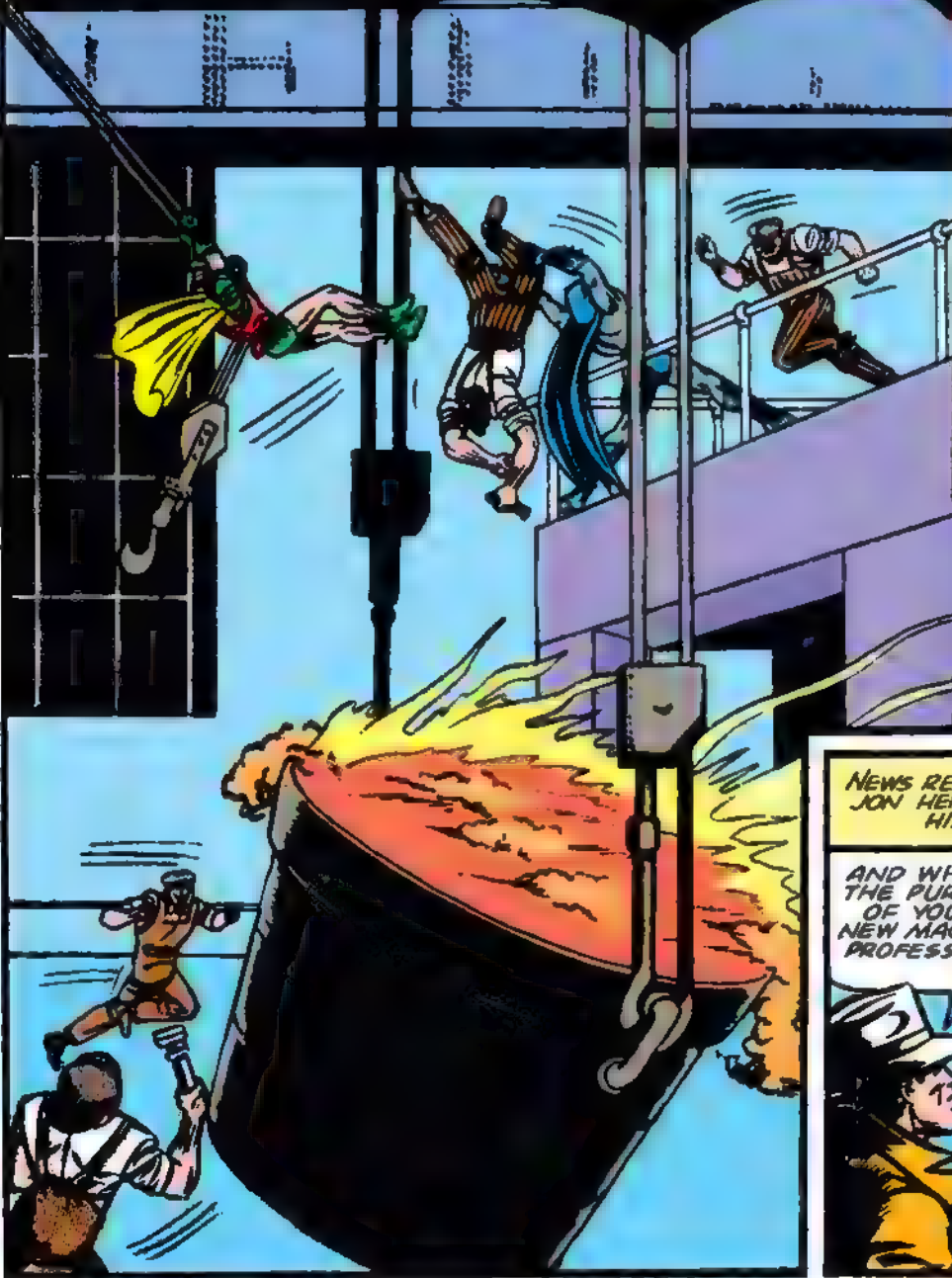
SEPT.



BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN

- THE BOY WONDER -

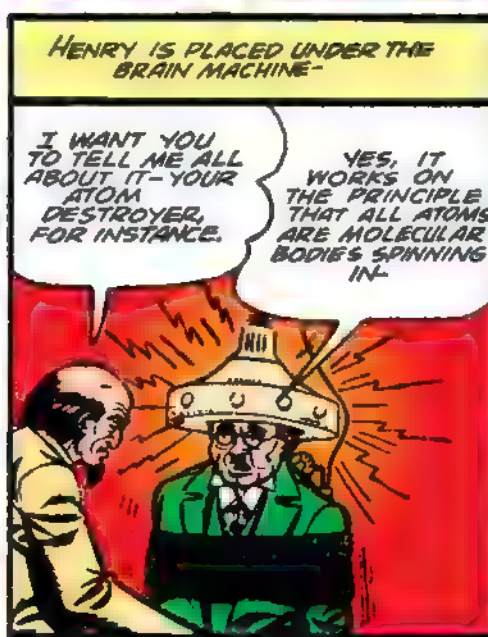
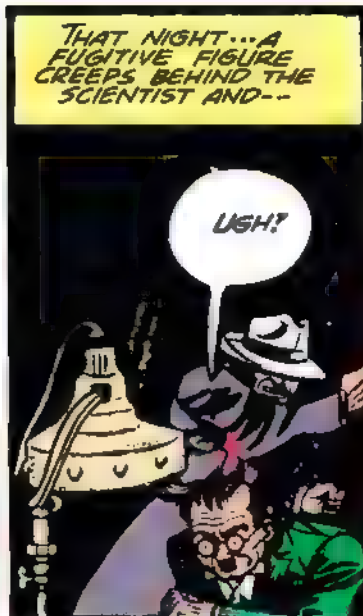
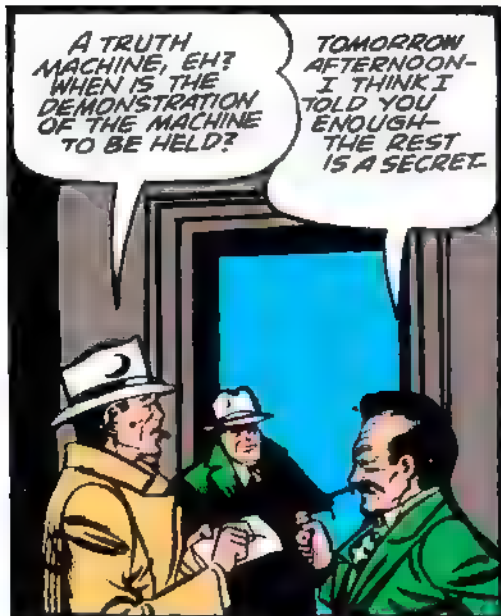


**WORST OF ALL MENACES--
WORST OF ALL CRIMINALS!
IS THE FIFTH COLUMNIST!
TREACHEROUS, DANGEROUS
AS A SNAKE, HE BURGLARS
THE SECRETS OF A PEACE-
LOVING PEOPLE IN AN
ATTEMPT TO SMASH
AMERICAN DEMOCRACY!
WHEN HE TRIES TO BORE
EVEN INTO THE VERY
BRAINS OF A PEOPLE,
THEN IT IS THAT THE
WHIRLWIND DUO--THE
BATMAN AND ROBIN--
STEPS IN TO STOP HIM
AND BRING A SWIFT
END TO THE DIABOLICAL
EVIL OF
"THE BRAIN BURGLAR!"**

**NEWS REPORTERS INTERVIEW PROFESSOR
JON HENRY, SCIENTIST, NOTED FOR
HIS MANY INVENTIONS--**

**AND WHAT'S
THE PURPOSE
OF YOUR
NEW MACHINE,
PROFESSOR?**

**WHEN I PLACE THE
APPARATUS ON A MAN'S
HEAD, THAT MAN IS
FORCED TO TELL THE
RIGHT ANSWER TO
ANY QUESTION ASKED
OF HIM. THE POLICE
FIND IT OF REAL
VALUE.**



AFTER THEY HAVE LEARNED THE DETAILS OF PROFESSOR HENRY'S NEWEST DISCOVERY....

IF WHAT HE SAYS IS TRUE WE HAVE STUMBLERD ON TO SOME THING THAT IS INDEED TREMENDOUS!

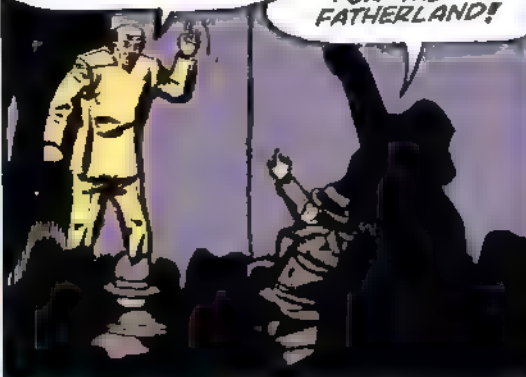
WE CAN CONTROL AN ENTIRE ARMY...WITH IT... CALL IN OUR AGENTS. I WANT TO SPEAK TO THEM!



THE ROOM IS FILLED WITH ENEMY AGENTS--

SO MY COMRADES, I HAVE TOLD YOU EVERYTHING? ARE YOU WILLING TO SUBMIT TO THIS OPERATION?

GLADLY-- WE KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO US, BUT NO SACRIFICE IS TOO GREAT FOR THE FATHERLAND!



AND SO, THAT NIGHT, MEN SIT AND AWAIT THEIR TURN AS ONE BY ONE THEIR FANATICAL COMRADES SUBMIT TO A MYSTERIOUS OPERATION--

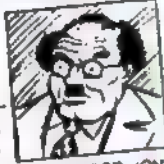


NEXT DAY--

39 GOTHAM GAZETTE

PROFESSOR JON HENRY AND BRAIN MACHINE DISAPPEAR?!

THE PRESS WAS AMAZED TO LEARN THIS MORNING OF THIS MYSTIFYING DISAPPEARANCE OF THE NOTED SCIENTIST THIS



PROFESSOR JON HENRY

AND THAT IS ONLY THE BEGINNING-- FAMOUS SCIENTISTS, KEY MEN IN NATIONAL DEFENSE, INVENTIVE CIRCLES AND OTHERS VANISH, SEEMINGLY PLUCKED AWAY BY INVISIBLE, GHOSTLY HANDS--



WHAT IS THE PURPOSE? WHAT EVIL WILL IT BRING? ONLY TIME--INSCRUTABLE TIME CAN TELL?

I THOUGHT YOU HAD A DATE TODAY WITH LINDA PAGE

THAT'S RIGHT! I HAVE-- BUT THIS LATEST DISAPPEARANCE MADE ME LOSE TRACK OF THE TIME!



WHERE ARE YOU GOING WITH HER, ANYWAYS?

TO HER UNCLE'S AVIATION PLANT WHERE THEY'RE MAKING A BOMBER FOR THE ARMY!

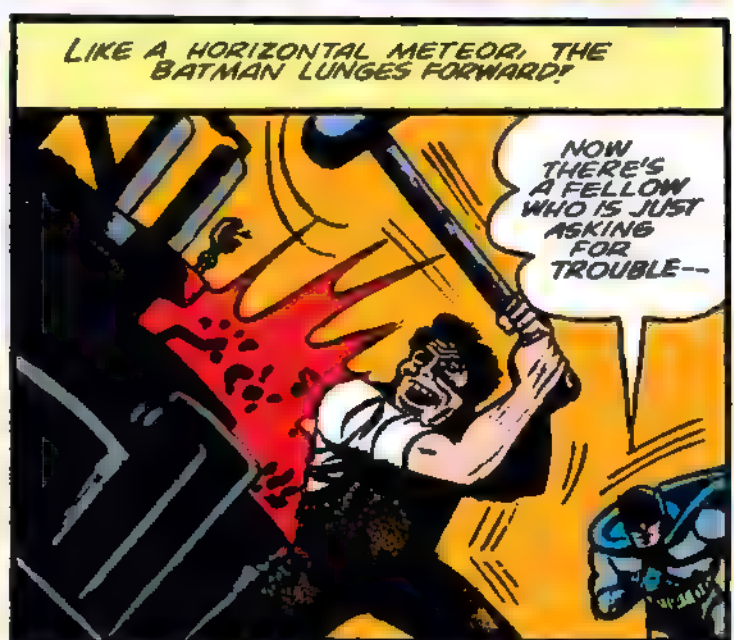
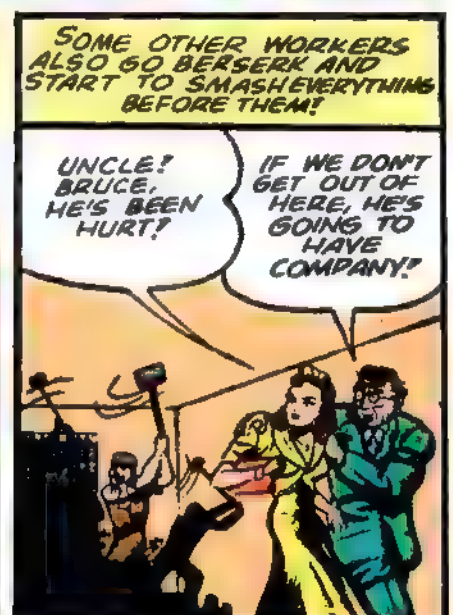
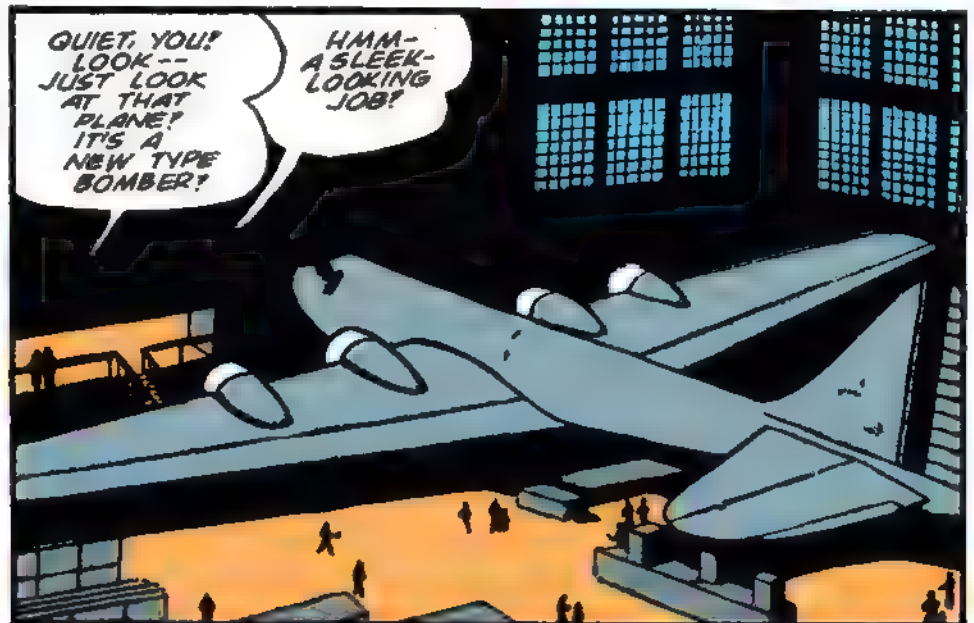


MINUTES LATER, BRUCE AND LINDA WALK TOWARD THE GREAT AVIATION PLANT!

BRUCE-- IT'S REALLY INSPIRING!

I SEE YOU WANT ME TO GET INTERESTED IN AVIATION SO I'LL FIND MYSELF SOME SORT OF OCCUPATION! SORRY--



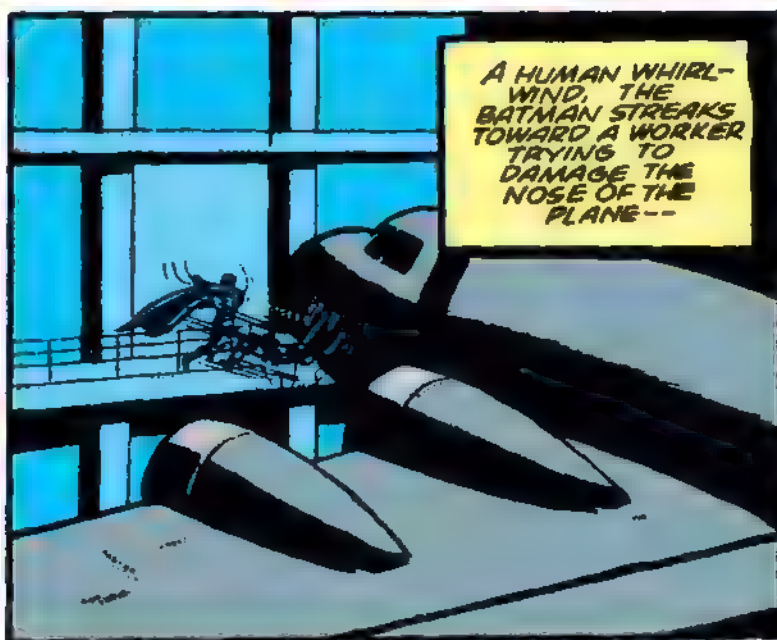




AS OTHER MEN RUSH TOWARD HIM, THE BATMAN STOOPS, HIS HAND REACHING FOR A LENGTH OF HOSE---



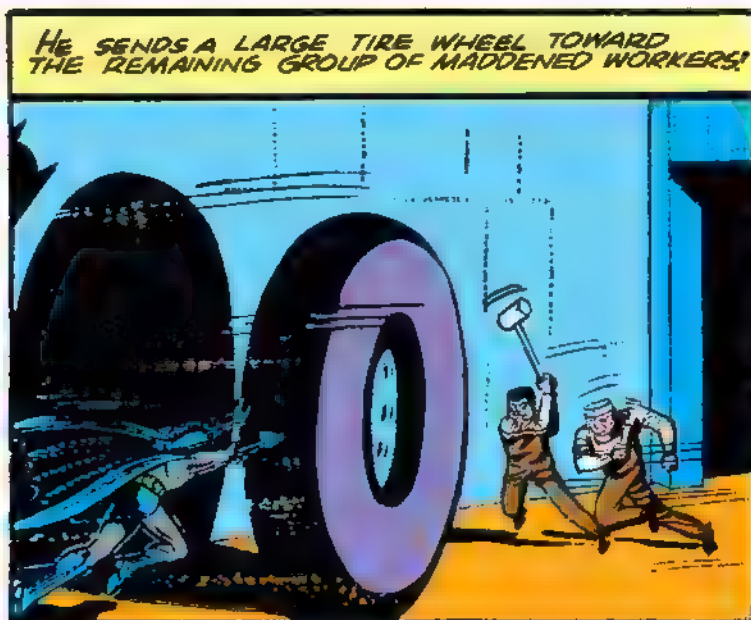
AND SNAPS IT AT THE CRAZED WORKERS LIKE A WHIP?



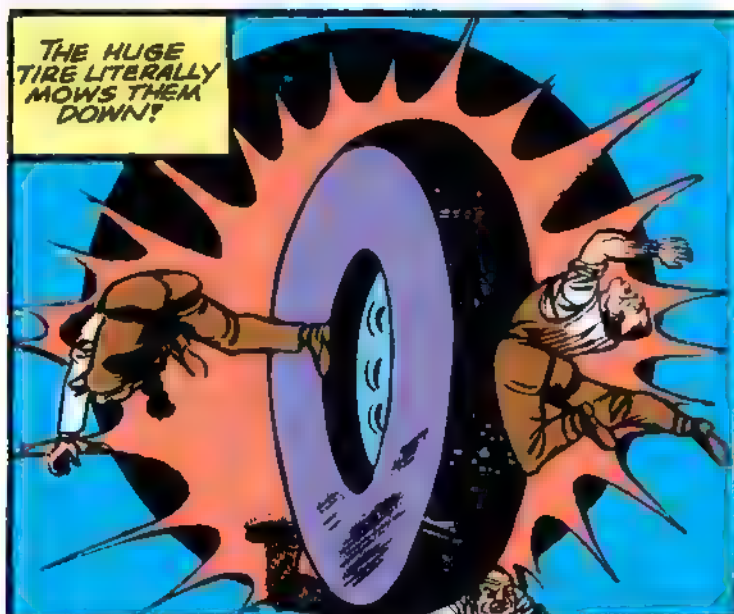


NOW ONE MORE LITTLE BIT OF STRATEGY AND MY WORK IS DONE!

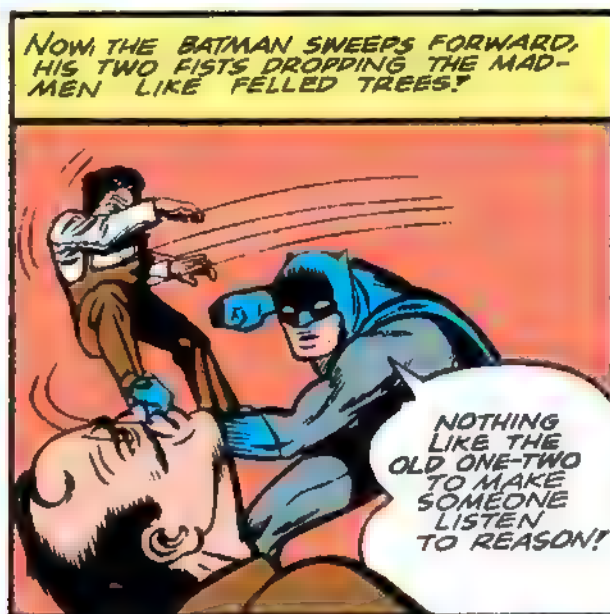
THE BATMAN SLIDES DOWN THE TOP OF THE SLIPPERY PLANE—



HE SENDS A LARGE TIRE WHEEL TOWARD THE REMAINING GROUP OF MADDENED WORKERS!

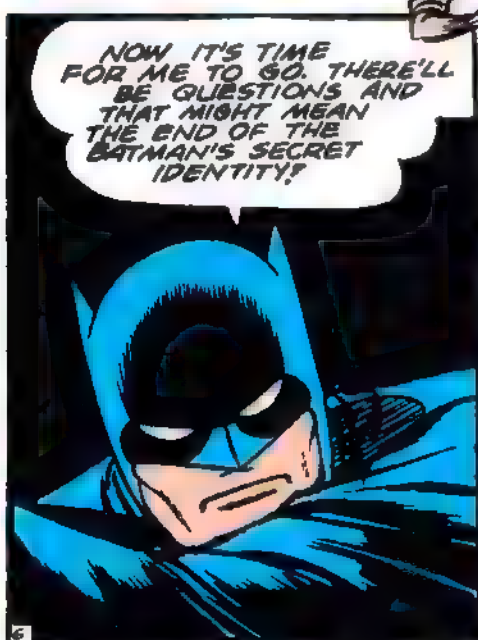


THE HUGE TIRE LITERALLY MOWS THEM DOWN!

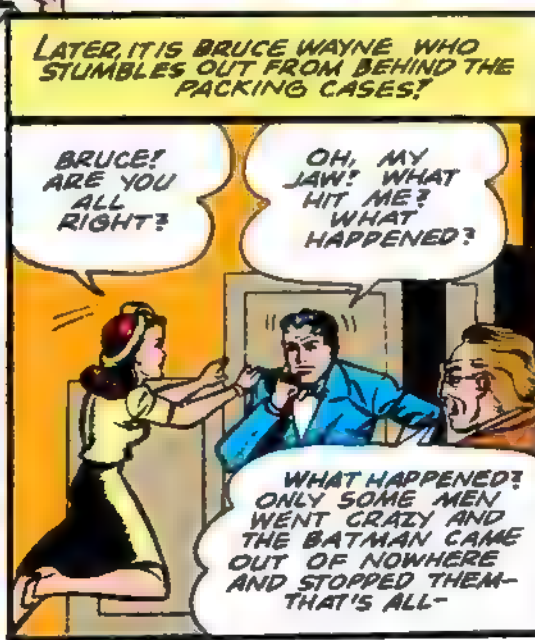


NOW THE BATMAN SWEEPS FORWARD, HIS TWO FISTS DROPPING THE MAD-MEN LIKE FELLED TREES!

NOTHING LIKE THE OLD ONE-TWO TO MAKE SOMEONE LISTEN TO REASON!



NOW IT'S TIME FOR ME TO GO. THERE'LL BE QUESTIONS AND THAT MIGHT MEAN THE END OF THE BATMAN'S SECRET IDENTITY!



LATER, IT IS BRUCE WAYNE WHO STUMBLES OUT FROM BEHIND THE PACKING CASES!

BRUCE! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

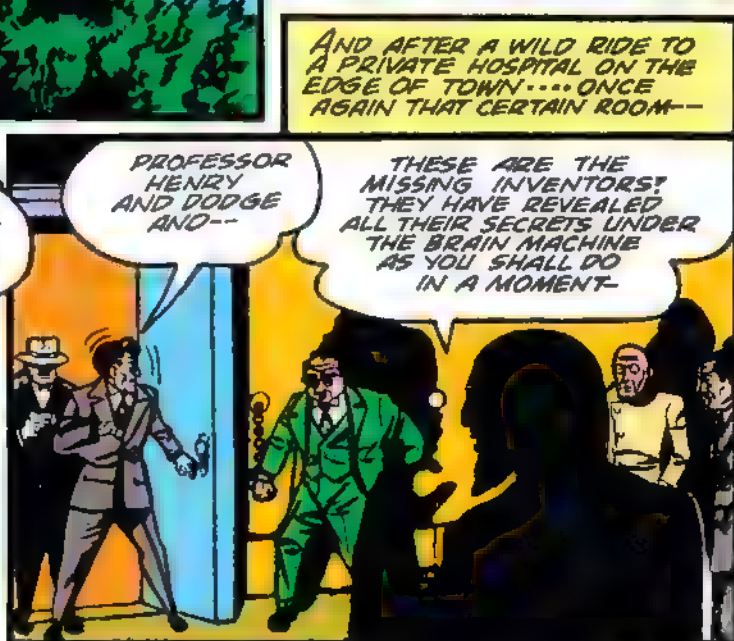
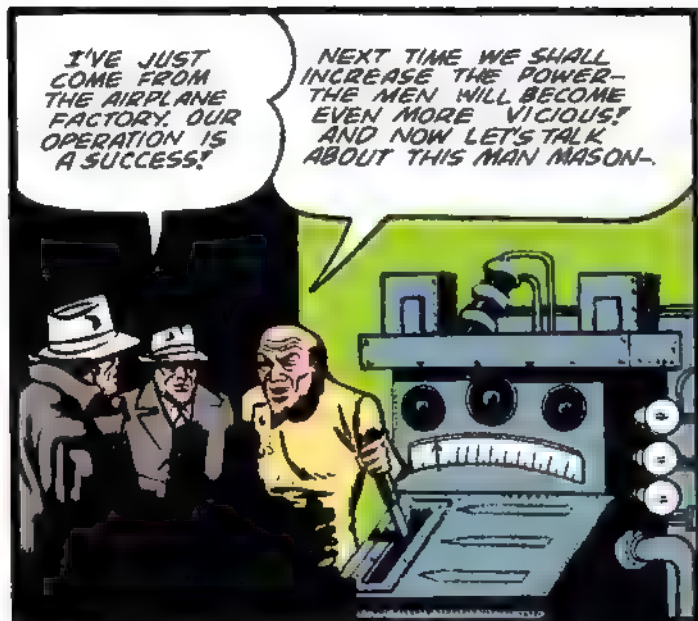
OH, MY JAW! WHAT HIT ME? WHAT HAPPENED?

WHAT HAPPENED? ONLY SOME MEN WENT CRAZY AND THE BATMAN CAME OUT OF NOWHERE AND STOPPED THEM— THAT'S ALL—

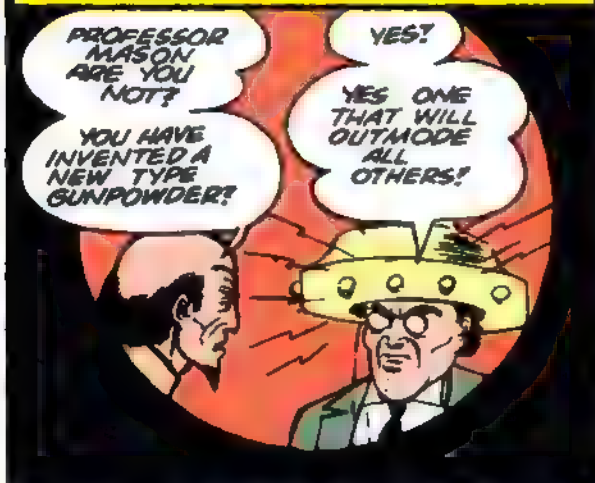


THE BATMAN— THAT GUY AGAIN?

"THAT GUY" PROBABLY SAVED YOUR LIFE AND MY UNCLE'S PLANT FROM BEING RUINED! WHICH IS MORE THAN YOU DID!



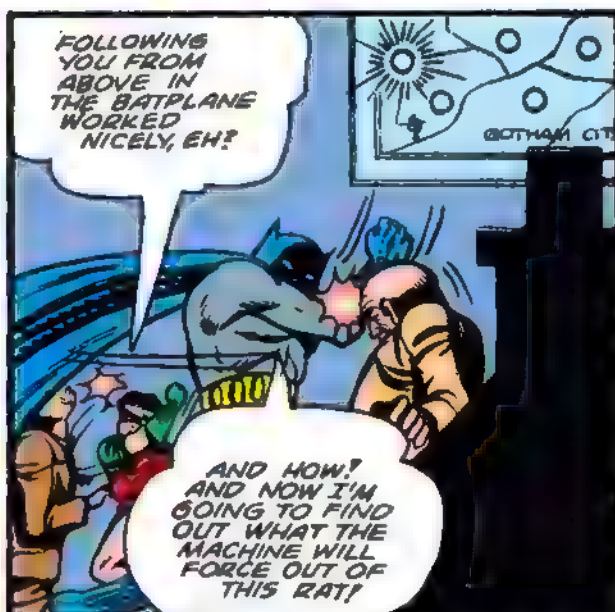
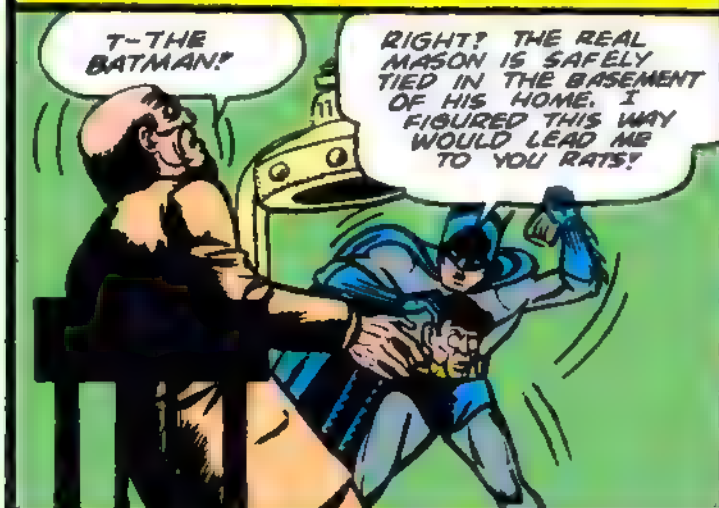
HE IS FORCED UNDER THE BRAIN MACHINE THAT FORCES HIM TO TELL THE TRUTH--



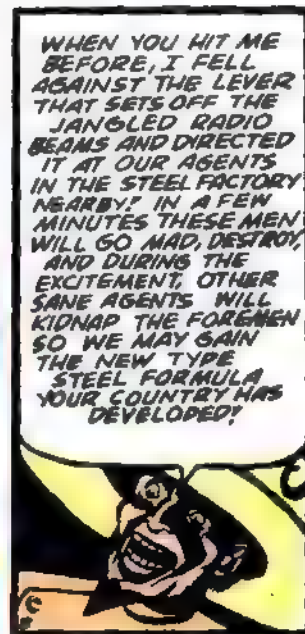
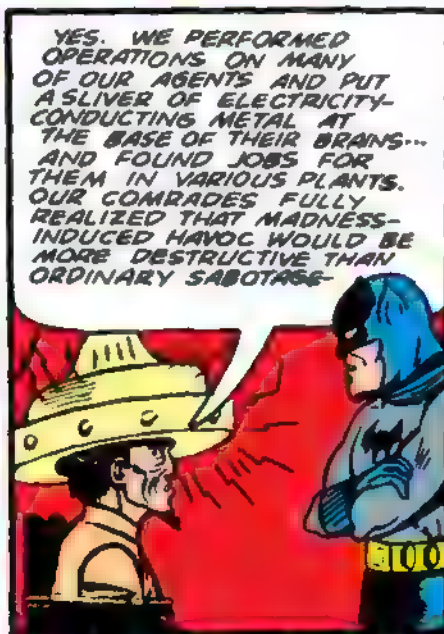
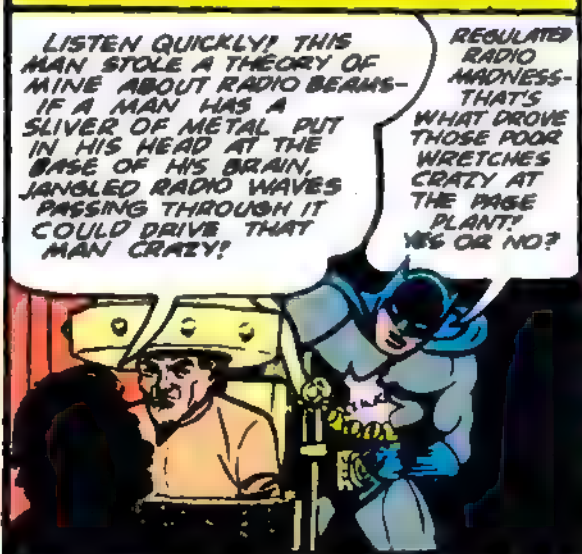
IN THE MOMENTS THAT FOLLOW, DEKER QUESTIONS THE MAN. SUDDENLY, ROBIN BREAKS INTO THE ROOM--

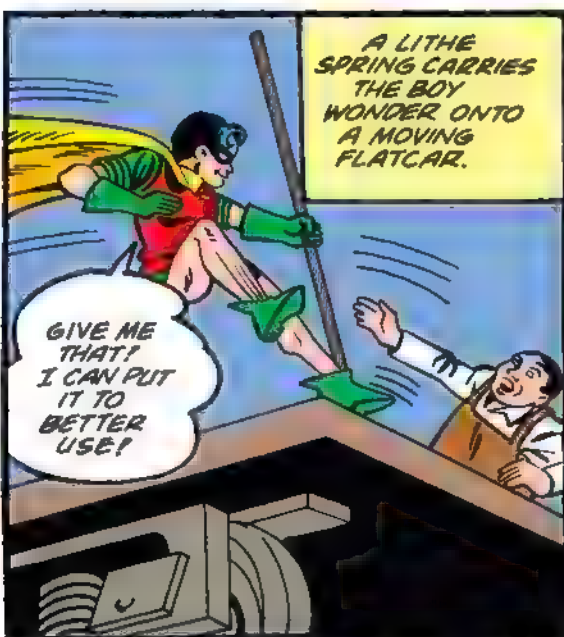
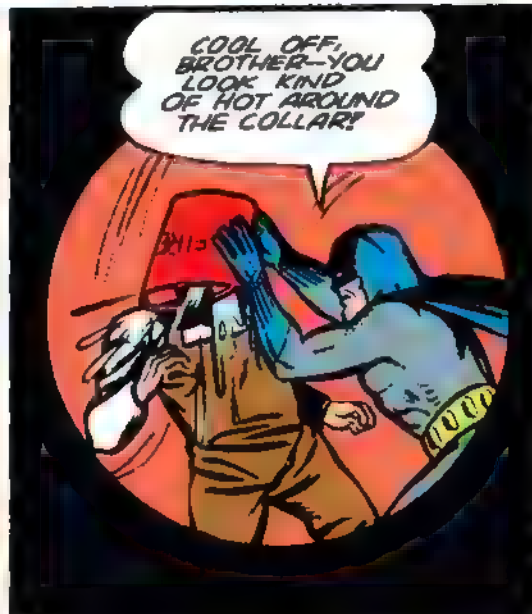
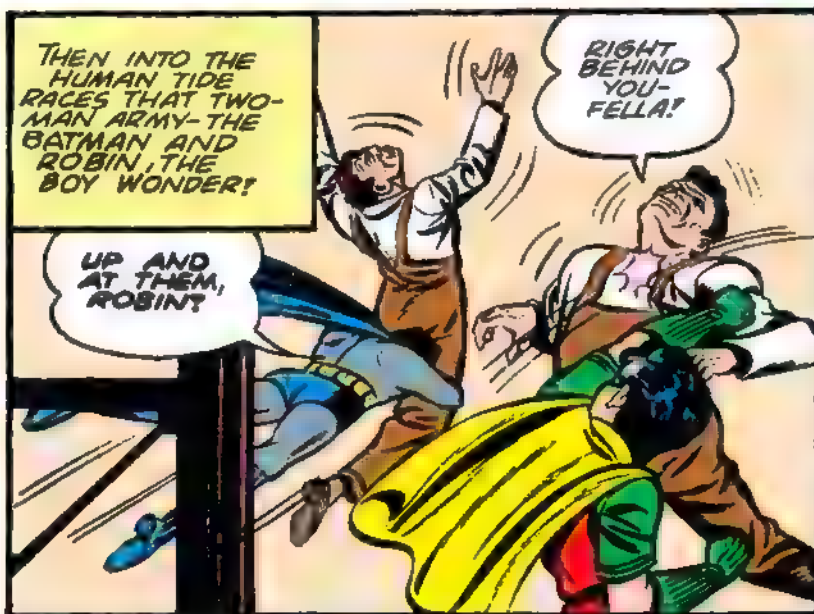
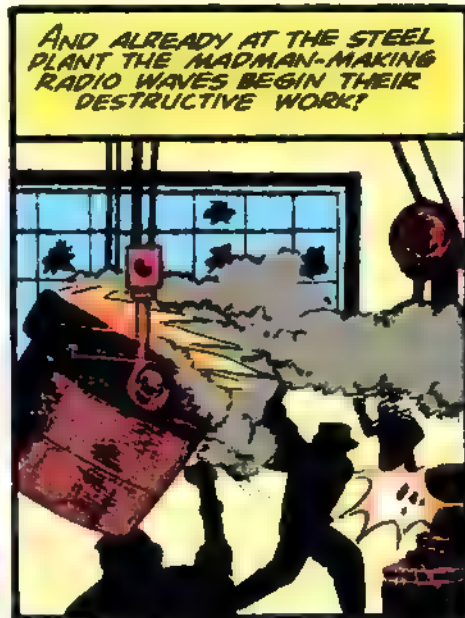
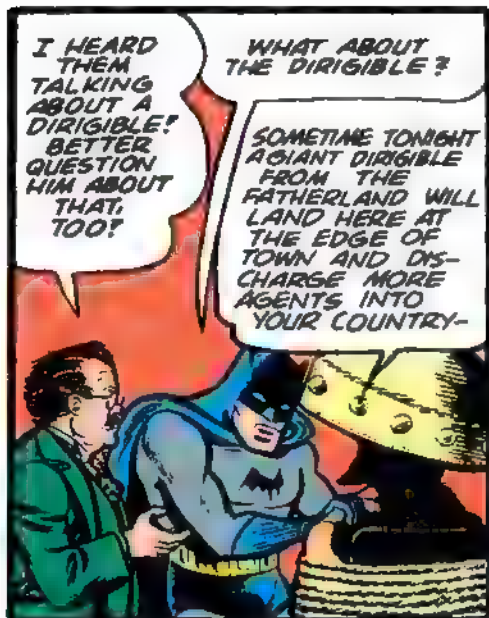


SUDDENLY: THE MAN UNDER THE BRAIN MACHINE WHIPS OFF A CLEVER DISGUISE AND STANDS REVEALED AS--



ROBIN FREES THE PRISONERS AS DEKER IS PUT UNDER THE MACHINE





UPON THE CATWALK, THE BATMAN COMES TO GRIPS WITH A CRAZED AGENT?



HOLY SMOKE! THAT SOCK DIDN'T EVEN FAZE HIM! THAT GUY'S SO CRAZY HE DOESN'T EVEN FEEL IT!

WITH THE FRENZIED STRENGTH OF A MADMAN, THE AGENT HURLS HIMSELF AT THE BATMAN, FORCING HIM TO THE CATWALK RAILING?



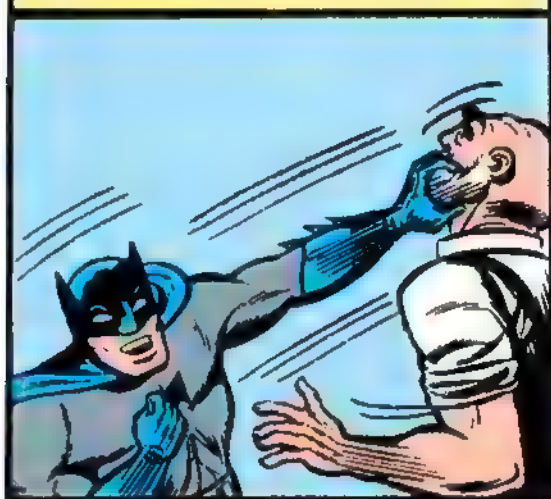
KILL-KILL!

BELOW, A CAULDRON OF WHITE-HOT, MOLTEN STEEL WAITS TO CLAIM THE BATMAN--

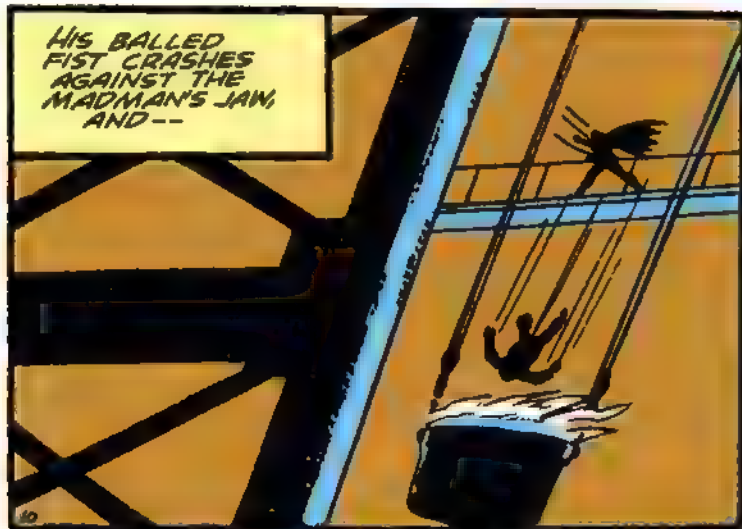


GOT TO DO SOMETHING-- FAST!

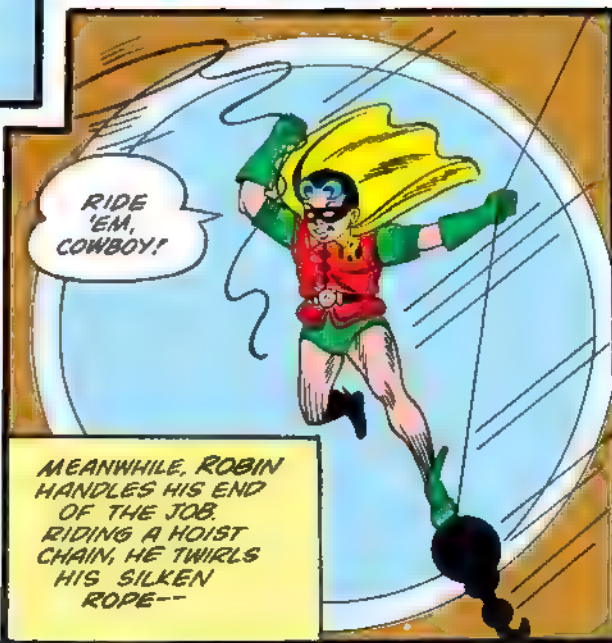
WITH A TITANIC EFFORT BORN OF DESPERATION, THE BATMAN TEARS HIMSELF FREE--



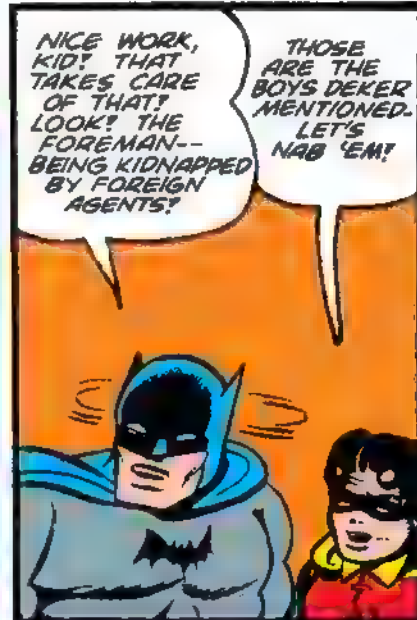
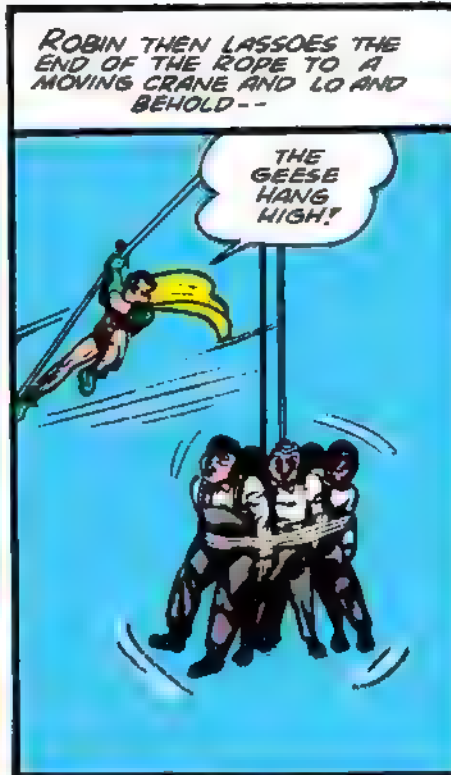
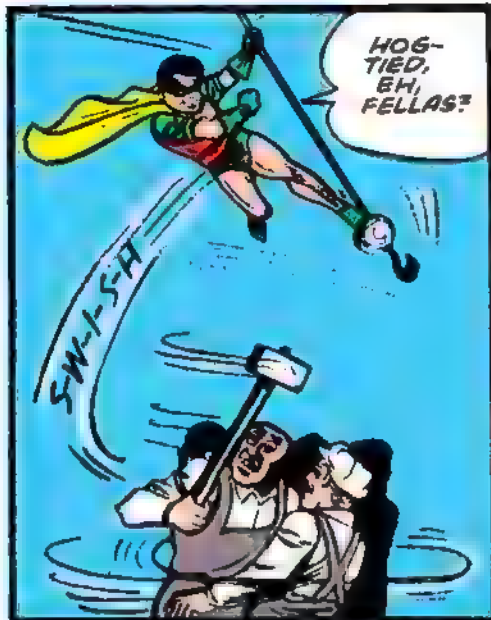
HIS BALLED FIST CRASHES AGAINST THE MADMAN'S JAW, AND--



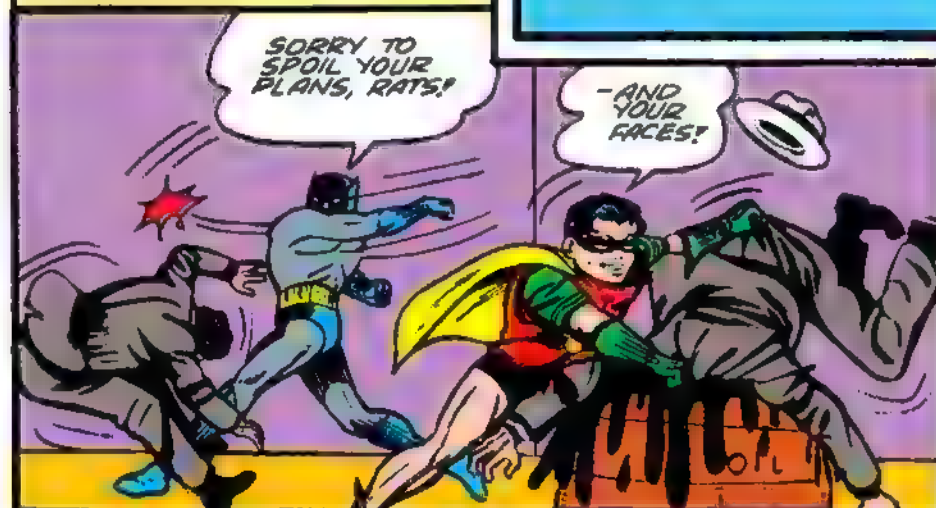
RIDE 'EM, COWBOY!



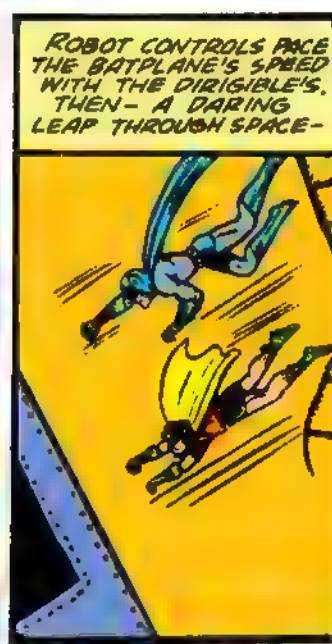
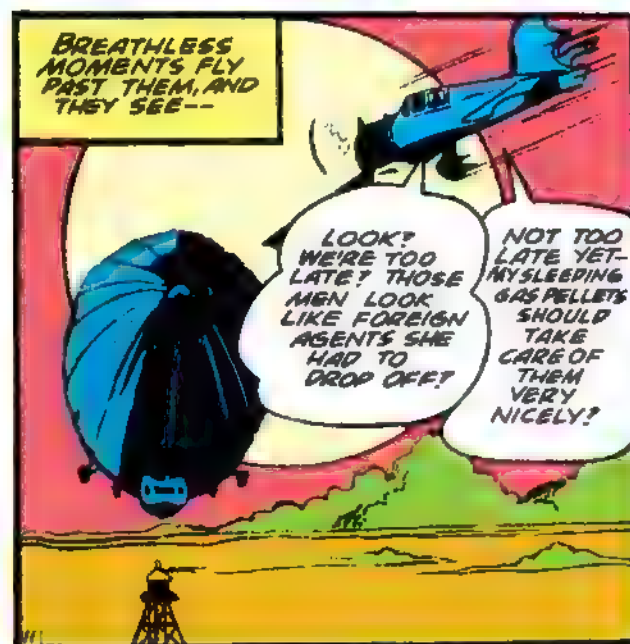
MEANWHILE, ROBIN HANDLES HIS END OF THE JOB. RIDING A HOIST CHAIN, HE TWIRLS HIS SILKEN ROPE--

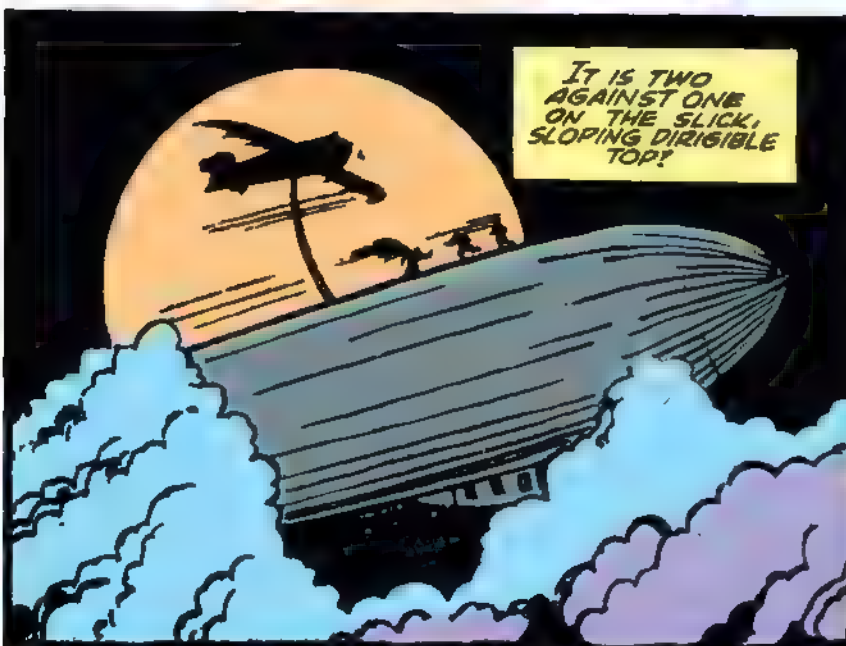


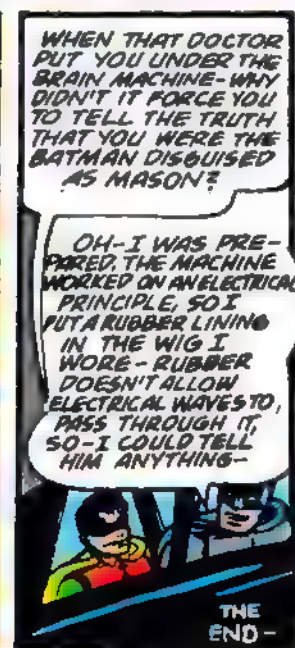
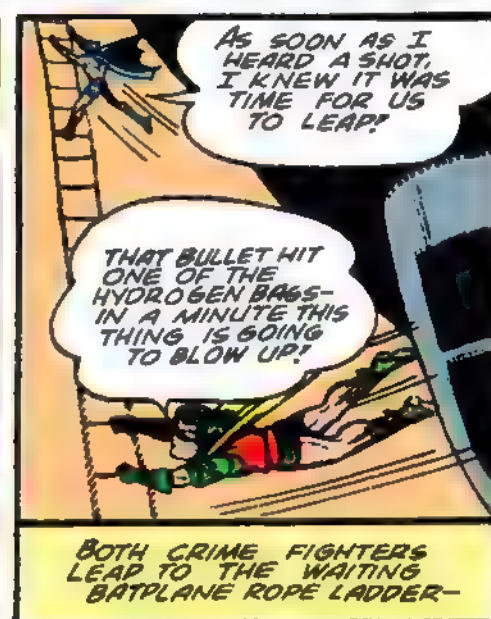
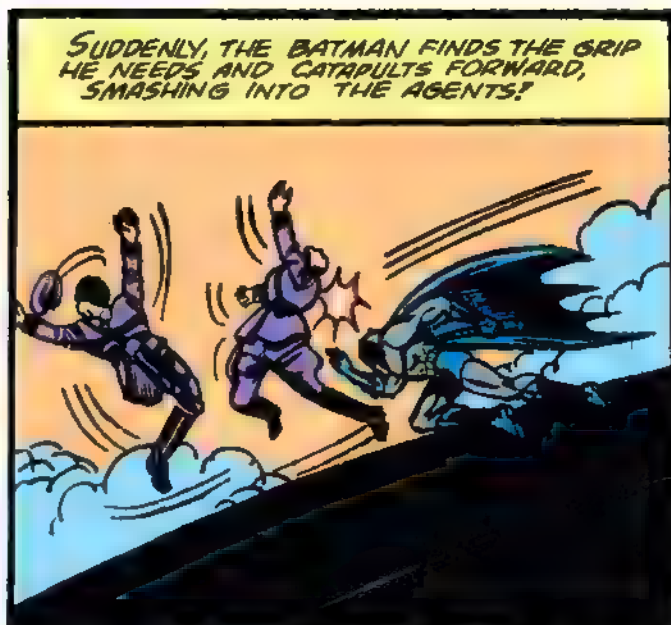
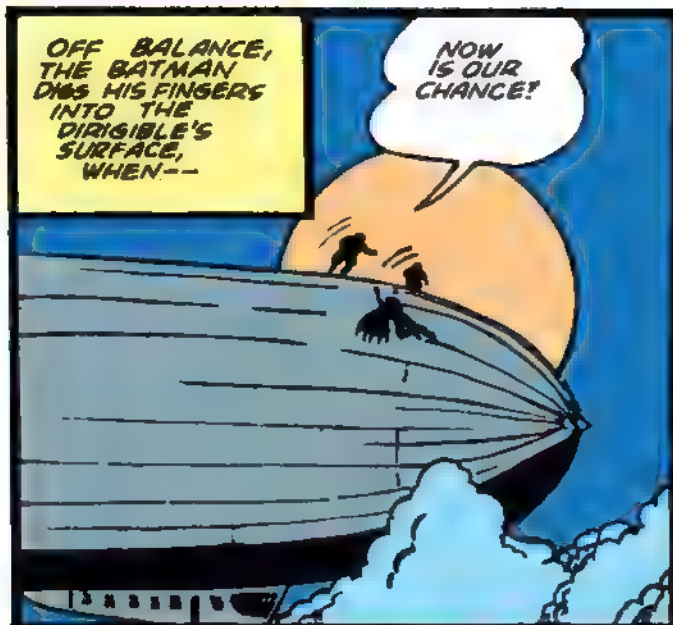
A WINDMILL OF FLYING FISTS, ROUTS THE FIFTH COLUMNISTS....



AND AS GUARDS TAKE OVER....









No. 56



The BATMAN

Detective

REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

OCT.

COMICS



BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN

HIGH ABOVE GHOST GULCH CITY SITS THE STONE IDOL ON HIS THRONE; AT HIS FEET, THE INDIANS KNELT AND WORSHIPPED—TWO THOUSAND YEARS AGO. AND WHEN THE STONE IDOL FALLS FROM HIS MOUNTAIN TOP—HE STRIKES TERROR INTO THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE OF GHOST GULCH CITY—AS HE COMES STALKING, WITH HIS STRANGE FOLLOWERS TO HAUNT THE TOWN! ONLY THE NIMBLE BRAIN AND QUICK BODY OF THE BATMAN, ABETTED BY ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER, IS ABLE TO COMBAT THE TERRIBLE MENACE, AND BRING ABOUT THE DOWNFALL OF "THE STONE IDOL!"

JOE
KANE

VACATION-BOUND ACROSS THE WEST UNITED STATES GO BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS WARD, DICK GRAYSON—

SAY---WHAT SORT OF TOWN IS THIS? LOOKS LIKE A GOOD STIFF WIND WOULD BLOW IT AWAY!

THIS IS A GHOST TOWN! PEOPLE USED TO MINE SILVER TILL THE VEIN RAN OUT--SO DID THE PEOPLE EXCEPT A FEW WHO HAD NO PLACE TO GO!


GHOST GULCH CITY--ONCE A ROARING SILVER MINING TOWN--NOW A HANDFUL OF PEOPLE LIVE SIDE BY SIDE WITH THE SHADOWS OF THE PAST. QUEER CHARACTERS MAKE UP GHOST GULCH---MEN LIKE MAD MACK--



I TELL YE, IF THAT THERE STONE IDOL EVER MOVES--THERE'LL BE THE DEVIL TO PAY IN GHOST GULCH.

MAD MACK--THEY NAMED YER RIGHT WHEN THEY CALLED YOU THAT?

MAYBE HE SPEAKS THE TRUTH?



YOU'RE RIGHT-- DON'T FORGET WHAT I WARNED YA-- WATCH OUT FOR THE STONE IDOL? AND WITH THIS STORM COMIN' ON, HE MAY CRASH AT ANY TIME?



WE'D LIKE A ROOM, PLEASE.

YEP-- SURE YOU WOULD? LOOKS LIKE A BAD STORM COMIN'!



AS THE STORM BREAKS OVER THE TOWN, A LARGE TRUCK CRAWLS UP THE ROAD INTO THE MOUNTAINS--

IT'S A NIGHT FOR THE DEVIL

SHUT UP AND KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE ROAD!



SUDDENLY THE ROAD STARTS GIVING WAY, AND A GIANT HOLE YAWNS AS THE TRUCK SPEEDS FORWARD--

WATCH OUT! THE ROAD'S GONE!



LIGHTNING BLASTS AT THE VERY FEET OF THE STONE IDOL?

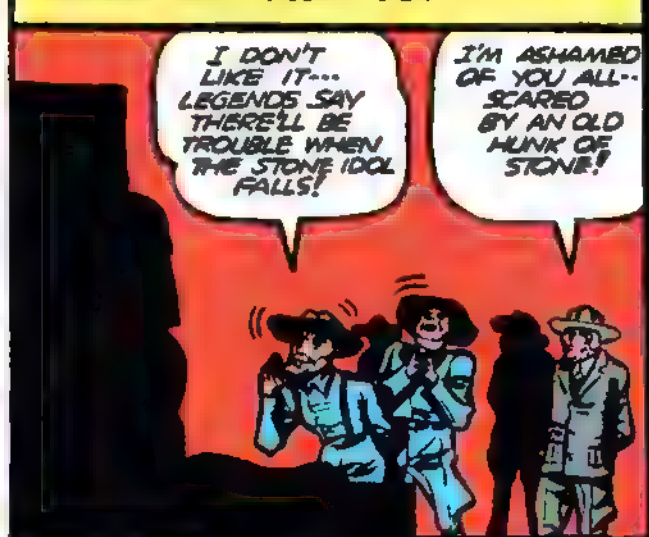


AND AFTER A 3000-YEAR REIGN, THE GOD OF STONE PLUNGES FROM HIS MOUNTAIN?

AS QUICKLY AS IT
CAME, THE FURY OF
THE STORM CEASES--
AND THE MOON
LIGHTS THE
STONE IDOL--
STANDING WHERE
THE TRUCK
HAS DISAPPEARED--



IN THE MORNING, THE PEOPLE GATHER
AROUND THE FALLEN IDOL---



THAT'S NO
WAY TO TALK, MR.
MAYOR. THE STONE
IDOL'S POWERFUL--
LAST NIGHT HE
LIPPED AND
SPOKE TO ME--
ABOUT YOU, MR.
MAYOR. HE SAID--



A VIVID, SILVER FLASH SUDDENLY
BLINDS THE WATCHERS ON THE
MOUNTAIN SIDE--



LIKE A MAGIC WAND, THE LIGHT
BRINGS TO LIFE THE STONE
LIMBS OF THE OLD IDOL OF THE
MOUNTAIN---



I, GREAT IDOL OF
THE MOUNTAIN,
COMMAND YOU TO
LEAVE THIS CITY--
ALL WHO DISOBEY--
DIE! LEAVE --
LEAVE ELSE I BRING
DESTRUCTION
UPON YOU!

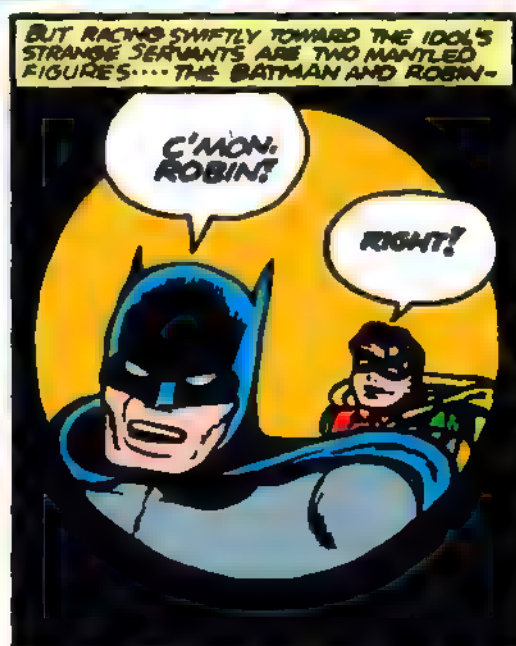
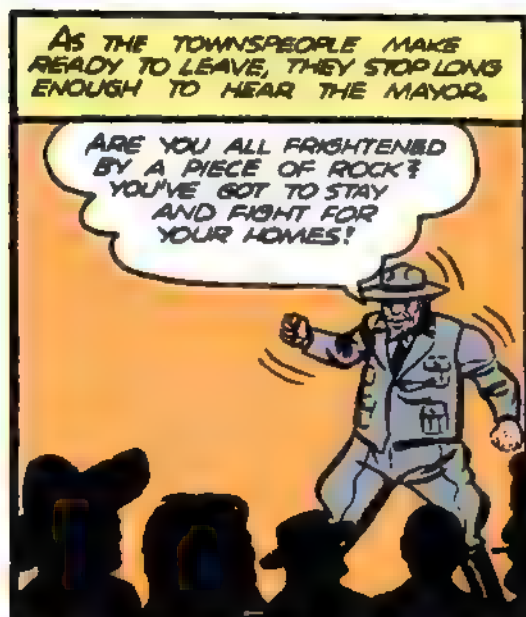
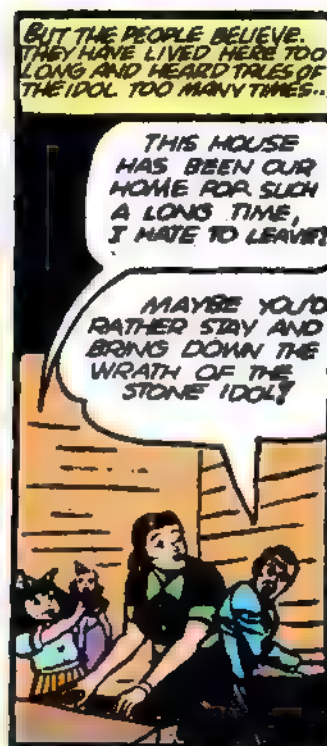


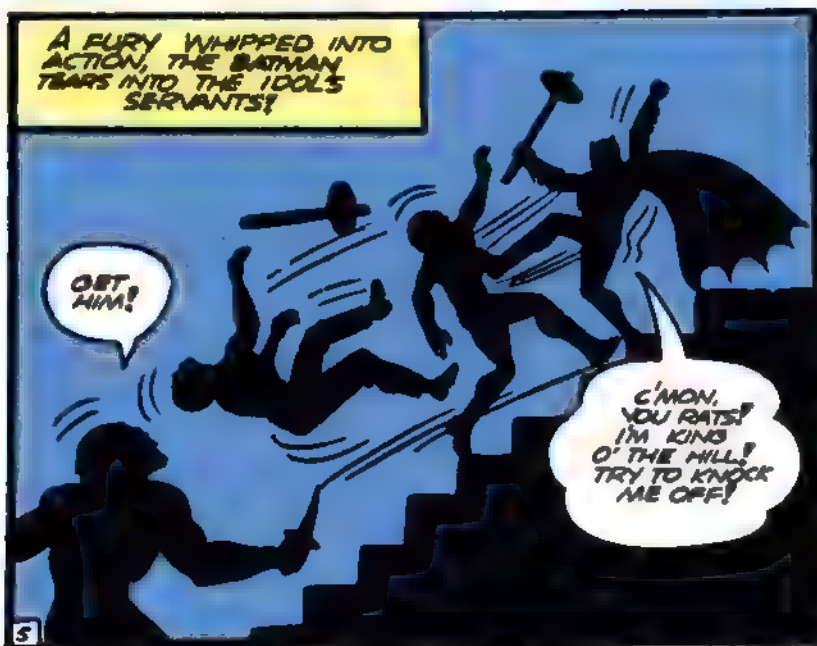
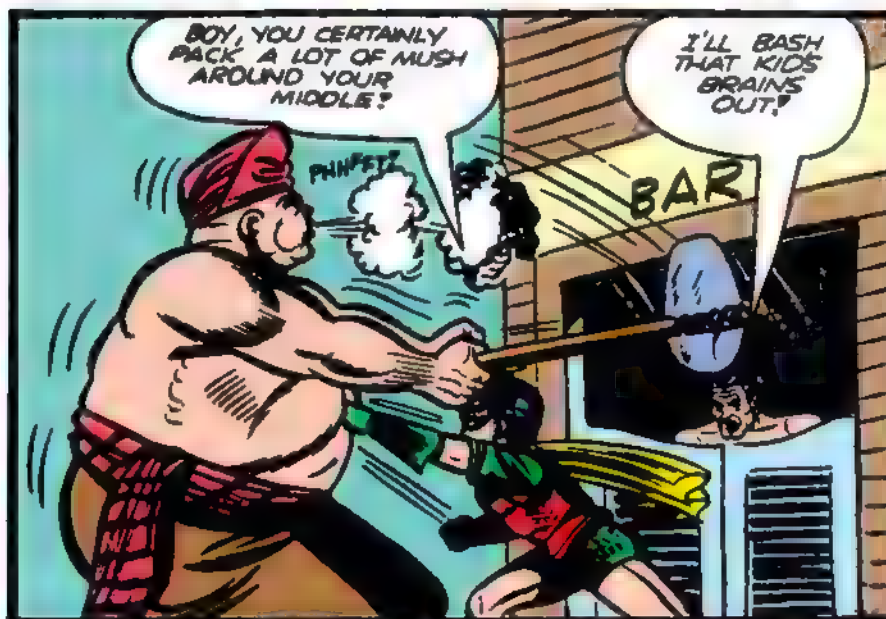
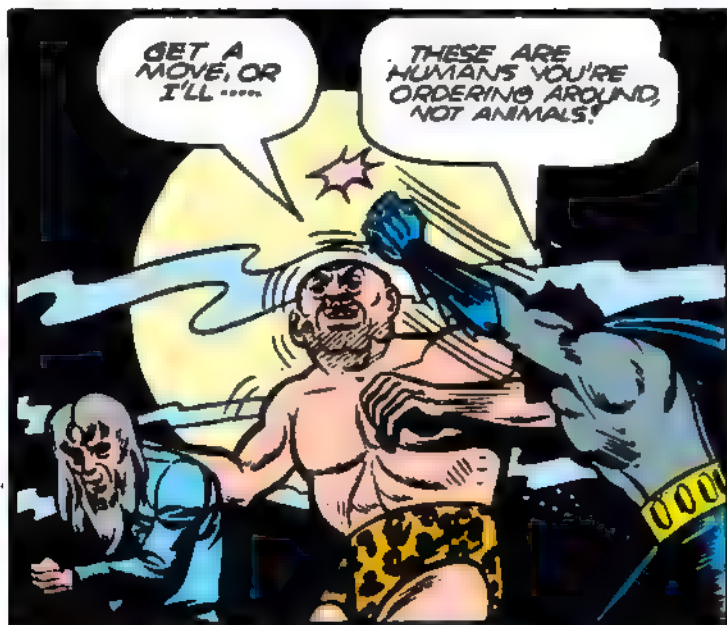
THE FRIGHTENED PEOPLE
KNEEL AT THE FOOT OF THE
STONE IDOL--ONLY THE MAYOR
REMAINS STANDING--

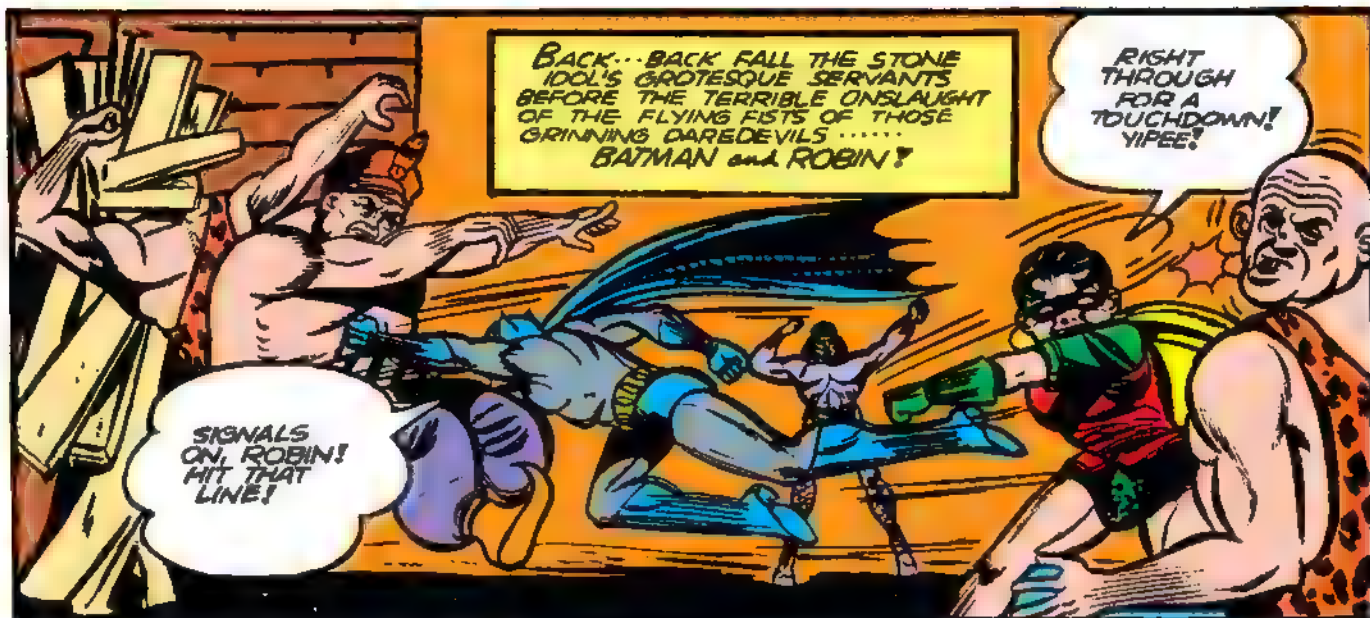


AS THE MAYOR APPROACHES,
THERE IS ANOTHER BLINDING
FLASH---





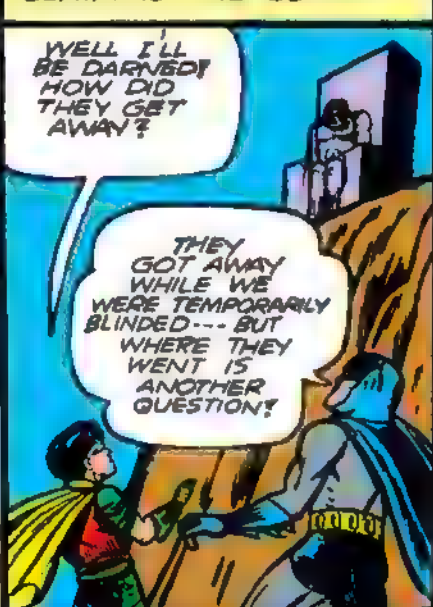




SUCCESSIVE FLASHES OF SILVER LIGHT SUDDENLY BLIND THE FIGHTING DUO!



WHEN THE LIGHT DIES DOWN, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN SEE THAT THE IDOL IS ONCE MORE ON HIS THRONE AND HIS SERVANTS ARE GONE....



THEY WERE MASKED!

WHOEVER THEY WERE, THEY CERTAINLY HAVE MY RESPECT! WHAT FIGHTERS?



AS SWIFTLY AS THEY CAME, THE TWO CAPED FIGURES DART BEHIND THE BUILDINGS!

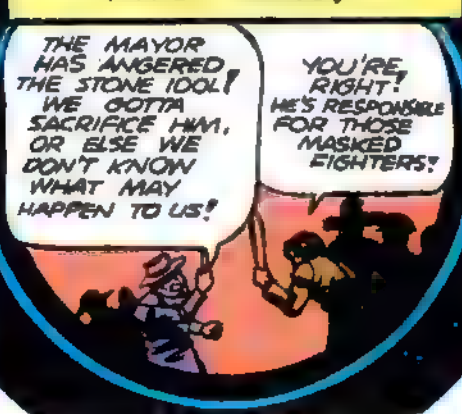
LATER IN THEIR HOTEL---

GOOD THING WE HAPPENED TO LOOK OUT OF OUR HOTEL WINDOW BEFORE AND SAW WHAT HAPPENED! DO YOU THINK THAT STONE IDOL CAN WALK?

THERE ARE LOTS OF STRANGE THINGS THAT MAN HAS BEEN UNABLE TO EXPLAIN IN THE PAST. PERHAPS THE STONE IDOL IS ONE OF THEM....



MAD MACK CONFERS WITH THE UNEASY TOWNSMEN AND WORKS THEM UP TILL THEY ARE TERROR CRAZED!



THE MAYOR IS SEIZED IN HIS HOME....



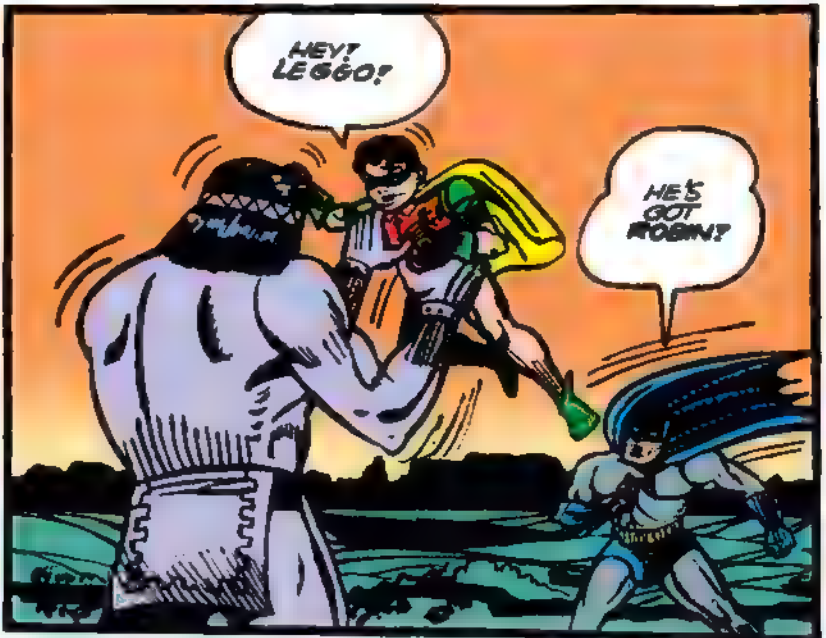


SUDDENLY A FLASH OF SILVER
LIGHT KNIFES THROUGH THE NIGHT--



HEY!
LEGGO!

HE'S
GOT
ROBIN?

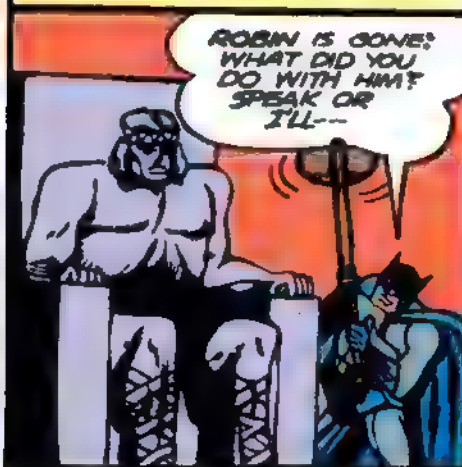


ANOTHER BRILLIANT FLAME
OF INTENSE LIGHT BLINDS
THE CHARGING BATMAN!



I CAN'T
SEE!!

AND WHEN THE LIGHT DIES
DOWN AND SIGHT GRADUALLY
RETURNS TO THE BATMAN'S
TORTURED EYES, HE SEES---



ROBIN IS GONE?
WHAT DID YOU
DO WITH HIM?
SPEAK OR
I'LL--

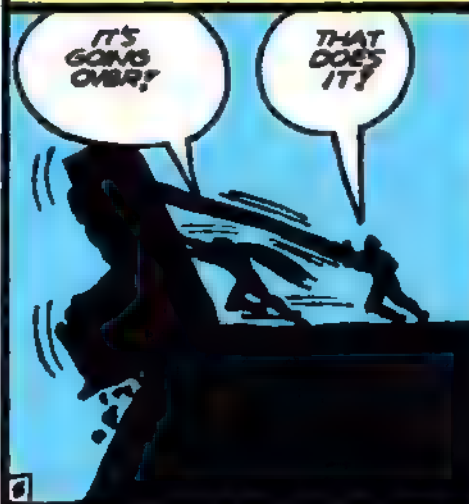
WHAT...?
STONE...
IT REALLY
IS STONE!
STONE THAT
MOVES AND
SPEAKS!!



IT'S...IT'S
GONE--
CAN'T BE A
STONE
STATUE THAT
GRABBED
ROBIN! IT--
IT CAN'T
BE--YEP--
YET--



WORRIED, CURIOUS BY WHAT
HAS HAPPENED, BATMAN
AND THE MAYOR COMBINE THEIR
STRENGTH TO TOPPLE THE IDOL---



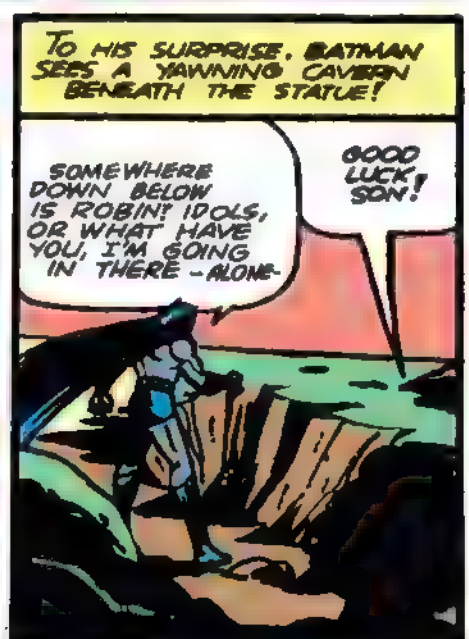
IT'S
GOING
OVER?

THAT
DOES
IT!

TO HIS SURPRISE, BATMAN
SEES A YAWNING CAVERN
BENEATH THE STATUE!

SOMEWHERE
DOWN BELOW
IS ROBIN? IDOLS,
OR WHAT HAVE
YOU, I'M GOING
IN THERE--ALONE--

GOOD
LUCK!
SON!



SILENTLY, THE BATMAN DROPS
DOWN INTO THE DIM CAVERN
BELOW THE GROUND--

A MINE?

WHAT'S THIS
CONTRAPTION?
LOOKS LIKE
A SORT OF
CRUDE ELEVATOR--
AND THIS--
IT'S ANOTHER
STONE THRONE.

THINGS ARE BEGINNING TO
BECOME CLEARER NOW--?

HUH?--
WELL--
WHERE
DID YOU
TWO DROP
FROM?

THAT
WILL
BE ALL
OF
YOU!

YOU DON'T
THINK I'D
NEGLECT
YOU,
DID
YOU?

THEN A VOICE--AND A STARTLING SIGHT--

ONE
MOVE AND
I'LL SEND A
BULLET THROUGH
YOUR LITTLE
FRIEND!

IF YOU HARM THAT
BOY, I'LL SEND YOU
DOWN SO DEEP, NO
MINER WILL EVER BE
ABLE TO FIND YOU!



OOPS!
SORRY! MY
FOOT MUST
HAVE
SLIPPED!

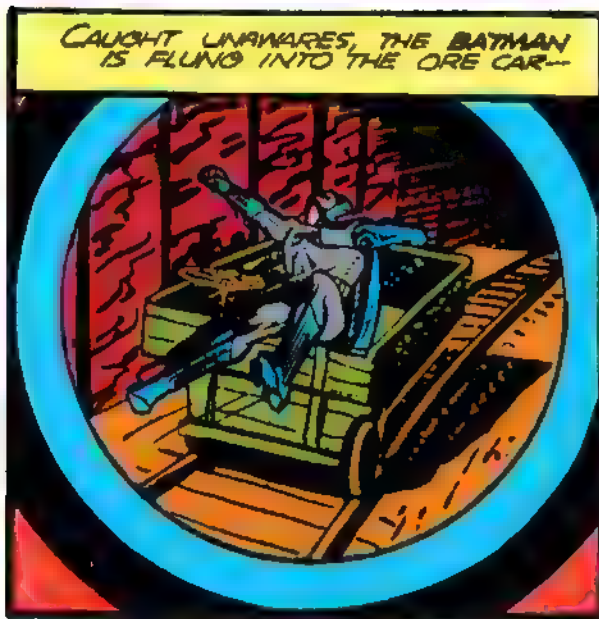


SMART
KID...EH?
HOW D'YA
LIKE
THIS?

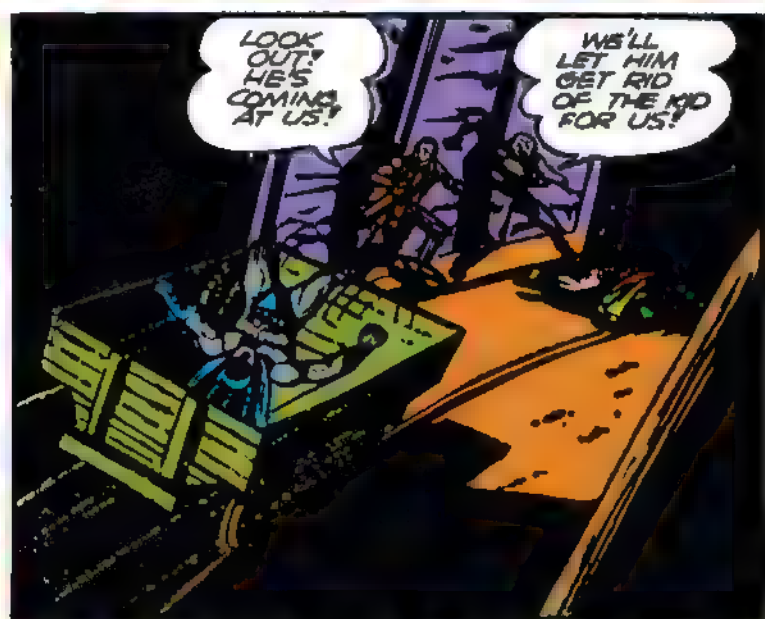


THE BATMAN SPEEDS TO
ROBIN'S RESCUE, UNAWARE
OF A RUNAWAY, EMPTY
ORE CAR WHICH RUMBLES
TOWARD HIM...

ROBIN!

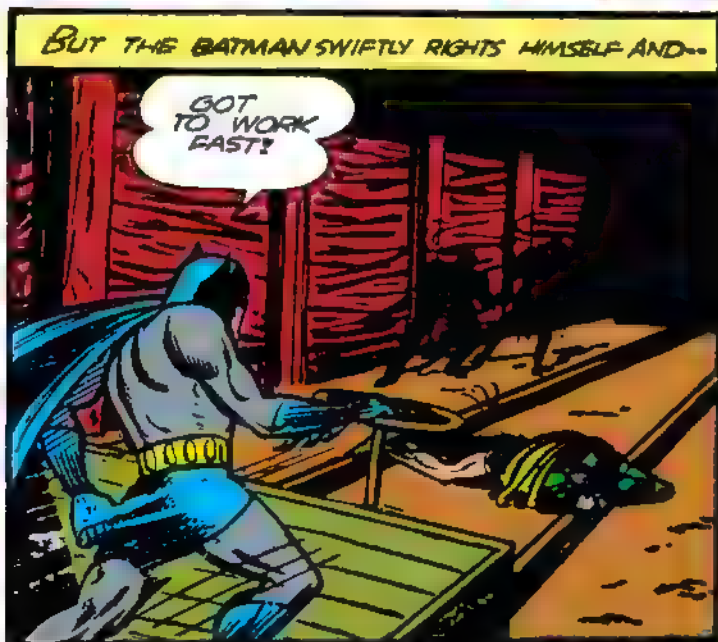


CAUGHT UNAWARES, THE BATMAN
IS FLUNG INTO THE ORE CAR--



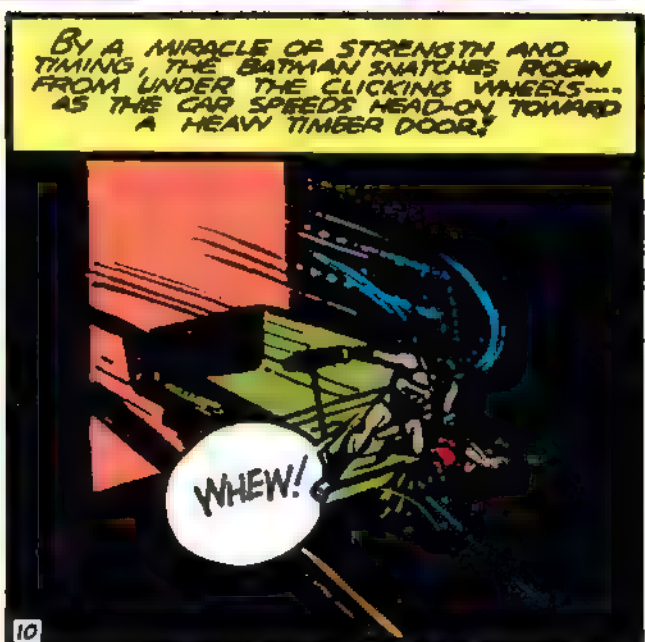
LOOK
OUT!
HE'S
COMING
AT US!

WE'LL
LET HIM
GET RID
OF THE KID
FOR US!



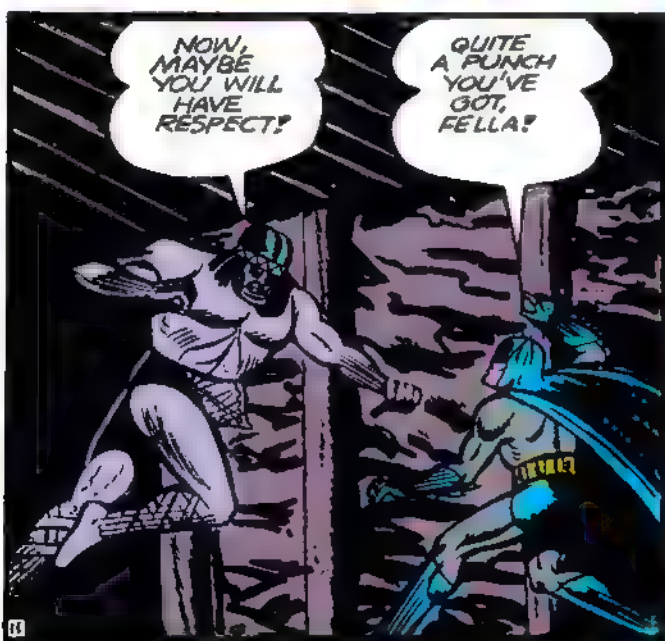
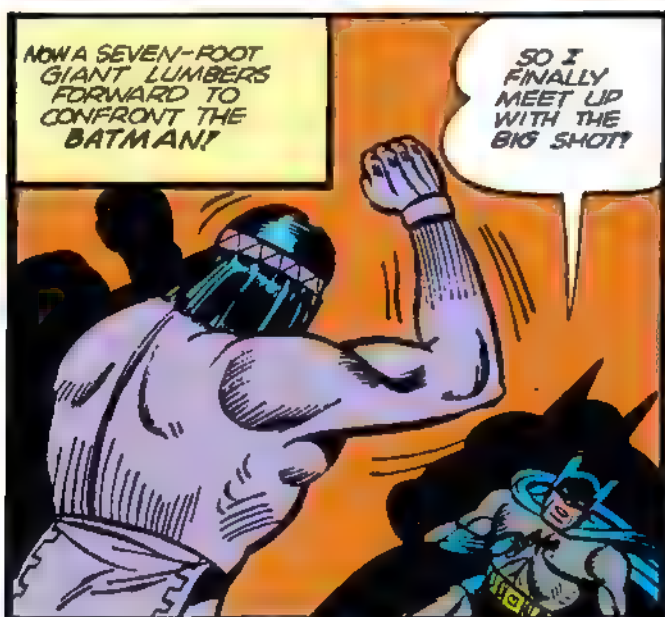
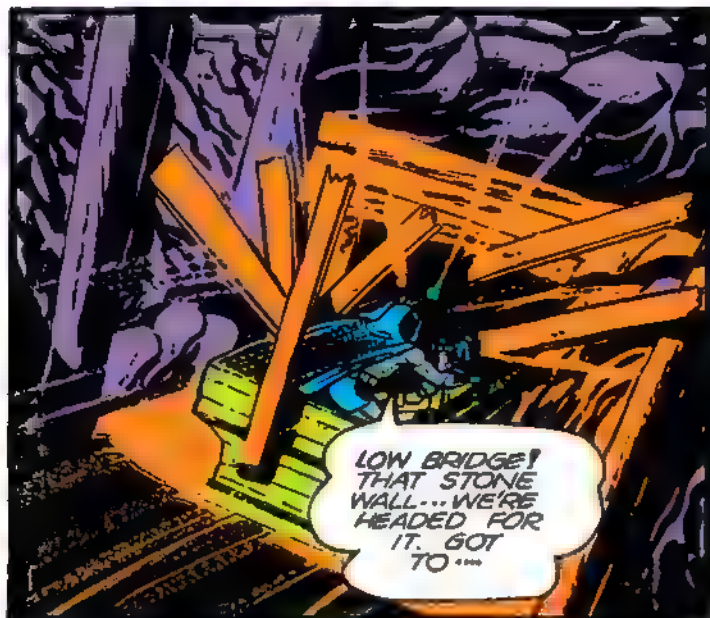
BUT THE BATMAN SWIFTLY RIGHTS HIMSELF AND--

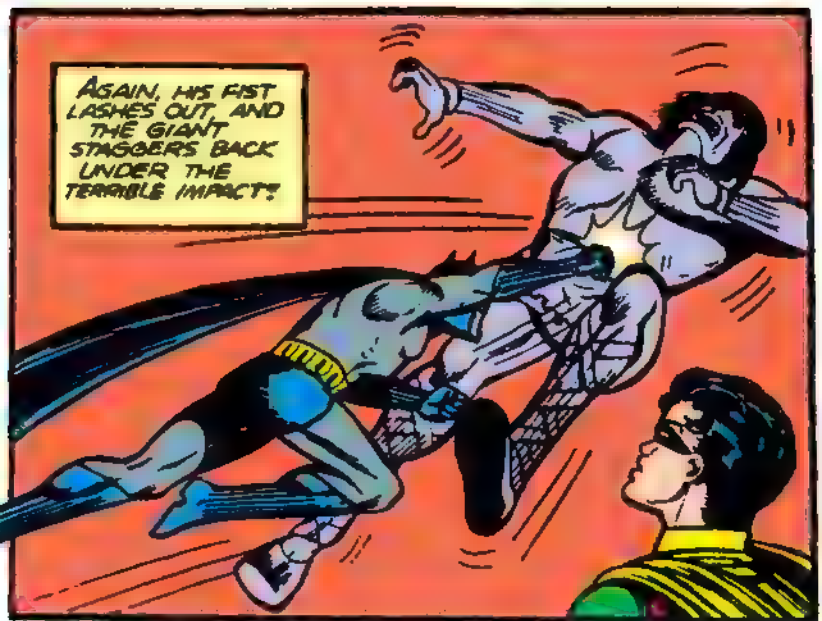
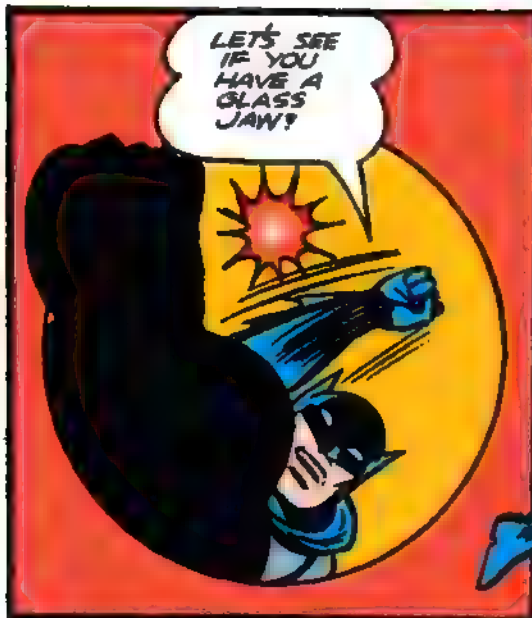
GOT
TO WORK
FAST!



BY A MIRACLE OF STRENGTH AND
TIMING, THE BATMAN SNATCHES ROBIN
FROM UNDER THE CLICKING WHEELS--
AS THE CAR SPEEDS HEAD-ON TOWARD
A HEAVY TIMBER DOOR!

WHEW!

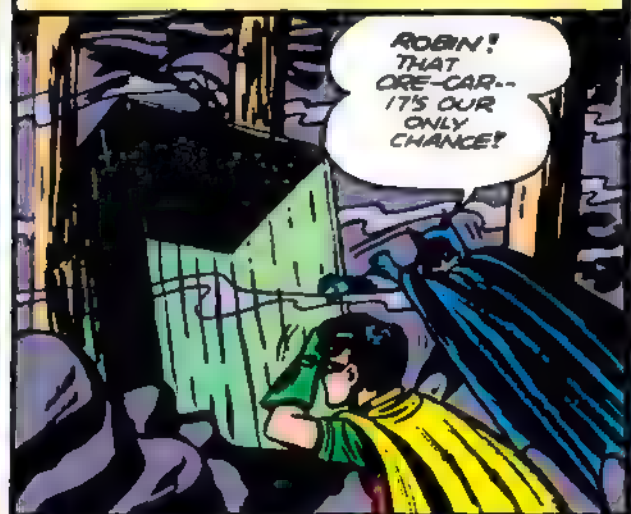




HIS HEAVY BODY SMASHES AGAINST A BEAM SUPPORTING THE MINE CEILING, AND THE BEAM GIVES AWAY----



IN ONE SPLIT-SECOND MOMENT, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN DIVE FOR THE ORE-CAR----



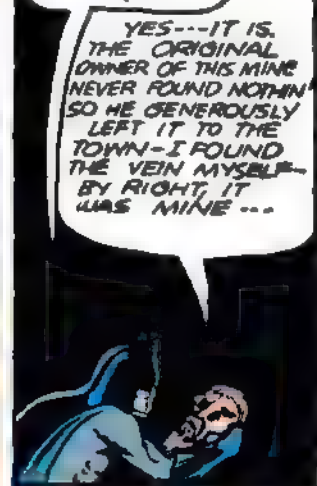
...AND PULL ITS THICK-WALLED PROTECTION OVER THEM AS TONS OF EARTH AND ROCK COLLAPSE?



SOMETIME LATER--TWO HUMAN MOLES DIG THEIR WAY THROUGH THE LOOSE EARTH--BATMAN AND ROBIN--



MAD MACK, YOU'RE DYING. BEFORE YOU DO, TELL ME--THIS IS A VALUABLE SILVER MINE, ISN'T IT?



"HOW COULD I WORK THE MINE WITHOUT SHARING IT WITH THE TOWN? THEN IT HAPPENED. ONE NIGHT A TRUCK SLIPPED INTO THE MINE..."

SURE... WE'RE A TRAVELING CIRCUS.

WE HAVE TO TRAVEL. THE SHERIFFS AROUND HERE DON'T LIKE US?

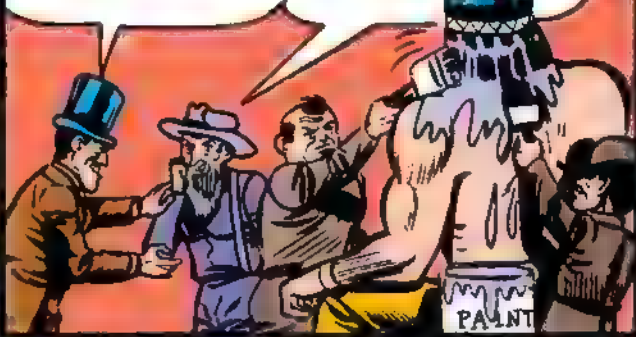


"I KNEW AT ONCE THEY WERE THE ANSWER TO MY PROBLEM."

"THEY WERE LIKE THE DEVILS THEMSELVES. WHEN I TOLD THEM ABOUT THE MINE-- WE QUICKLY THOUGHT UP A PLAN."

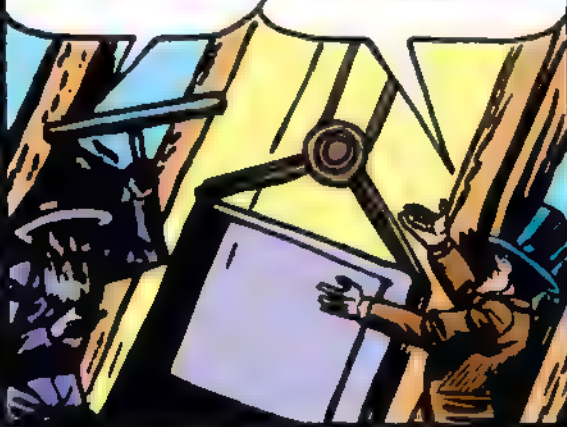
SEE? THIS BLACK WIG AND PAINT WILL MAKE OUR STRONG MAN LOOK LIKE THAT STONE IDOL THESE PEOPLE TALK ABOUT SO MUCH!

FINE! WE'LL MAKE THESE OTHERS TO LOOK LIKE HIS SERVANTS. THEN I'LL START TELLING THE PEOPLE THAT THE IDOL HAS COME TO LIFE.



YE SAY THIS FLASH-LIGHT POWDER WILL BLIND THE PEOPLE FOR A COUPLA MINUTES OR SO?

RIGHT. THEN WE WORK THE SHIFT WITH THIS HAND-MADE ELEVATOR. THE REAL STONE IDOL COMES DOWN AND THE STRONG MAN GOES UP!



"WE FIGURED WE SCARE EVERYBODY OUTA TOWN SO WE COULD WORK THE MINE AND SPLIT THE PROFITS."

IT WOULD'VE WORKED IF IT WASN'T FOR THE MAYOR... NOW I'M DYING... GUESS--I GOT WHAT'S COMIN' TO ME...



...I'M SORRY I WAS--A GREEDY OLD MAN--
---I---



LATER, AFTER EXPLANATIONS--

I THOUGHT I'D NEVER SEE YOU TWO AGAIN WHEN THE EARTH CAVED IN! I THOUGHT YOU WERE GONNERS FOR SURE.

FRANKLY... FOR A COUPLE OF MINUTES, WE THOUGHT SO, TOO. BUT I GUESS WE WERE LUCKY!



WITH THEIR JOB DONE, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN LEAVE BEHIND A GRATEFUL PEOPLE--

I CERTAINLY HOPE THEY BURIED SUPERSTITION IN THIS TOWN!



QUITE A LITTLE ADVENTURE, WASN'T IT?

AND HOW! AND I THINK WE DESERVE A LITTLE REST AFTER THIS EPISODE!



No. 3

FALL ISSUE



WORLD'S FINEST

COMICS

96
PAGES



SUPERMAN • BATMAN AND ROBIN
RED, WHITE & BLUE • ZATARA

BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN

ACROSS THE BATMAN'S HORIZON
MOVES A NEW AND TERRIBLE
FIGURE--A FANTASTIC FIGURE OF
BURLAP AND STRAW, WHO IS
CUNNING AND DISTORTED! WHO IS
THIS FIGURE WHOSE VERY LUDICROUS
APPEARANCE INSPIRES FEAR--
FEAR INCARNATE--
FEAR WALKING THE STREETS OF GOTHAM
CITY? IT IS THAT MOST TERRIBLE, MOST
BIZARRE OF ALL CRIMINALS--THE
CRIMINAL ALL WILL LEARN TO FEAR
AND CALL--THE SCARECROW!!

LIKE A REAL SCARECROW, HE LOOMS
BOLD AND FRIGHTENING, SCARING THE
FLUTTERING INHABITANTS OF THE CITY!
YET FROM THE FLOCK RISE THE
WINGED-CLOAKED BATMAN AND ROBIN
TO CHALLENGE AND COMBAT THE
EERIE POWER OF--

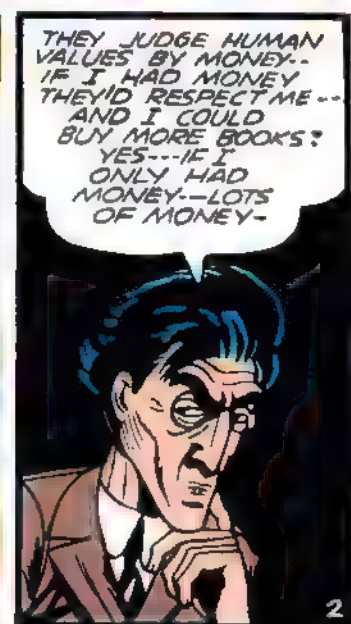
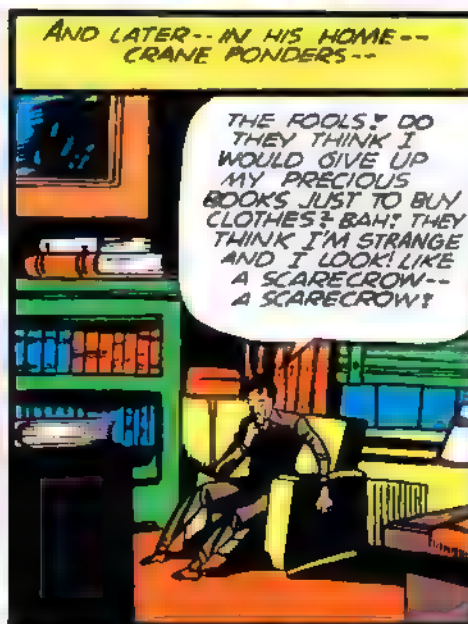
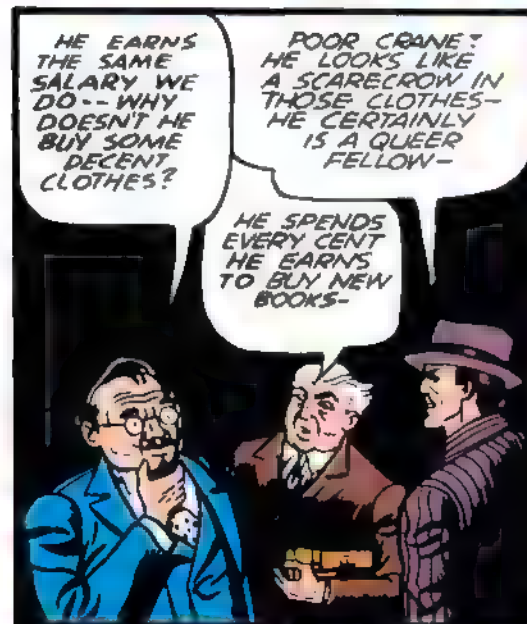
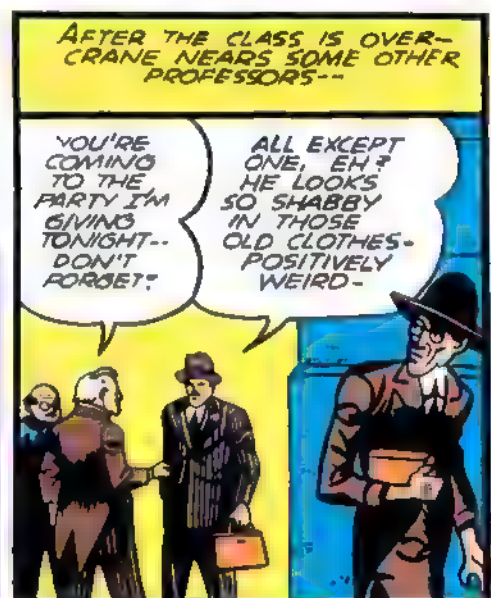
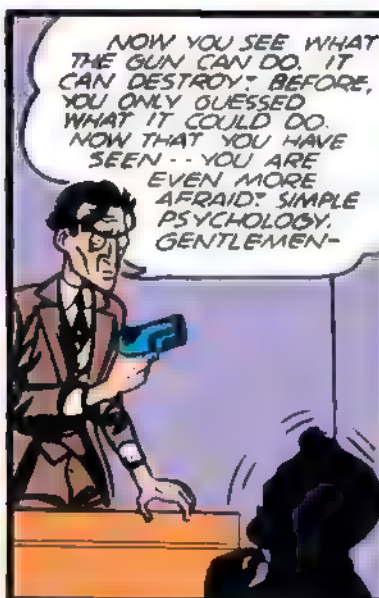
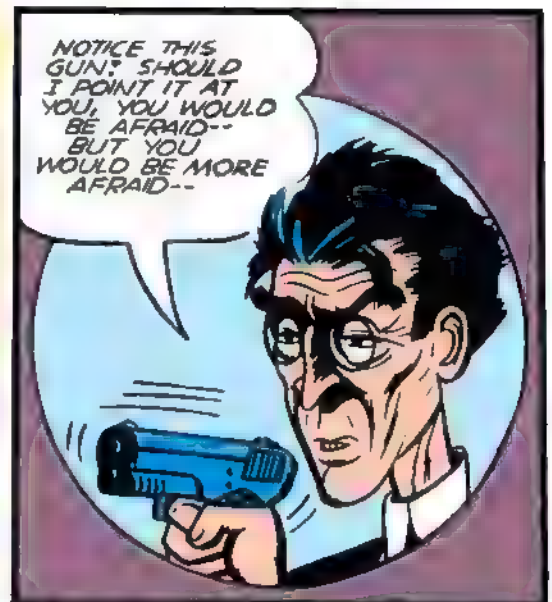
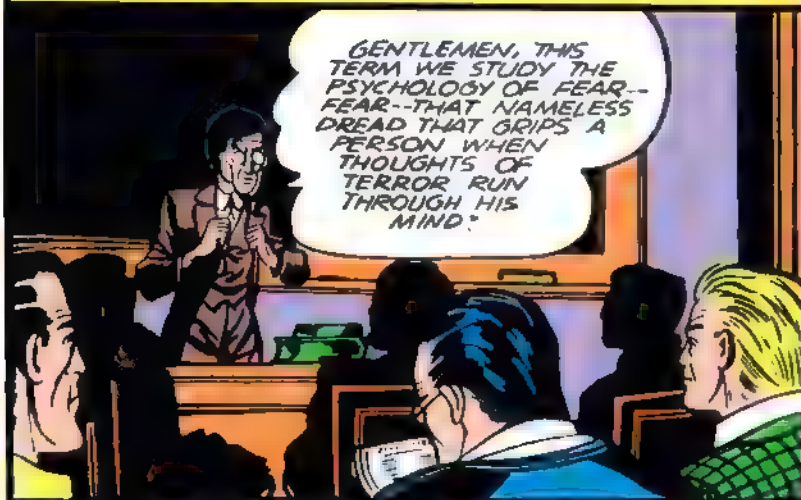
The SCARECROW!



VERY OFTEN AN INCIDENT IN CHILD-
HOOD SUGGESTS THE SORT OF PERSON
THAT CHILD WILL BE WHEN HE HAS
GROWN UP. SUCH WAS THE CASE
WITH JONATHAN CRANE. AS A
SMALL BOY, JONATHAN CRANE LIKED
TO FRIGHTEN BIRDS!

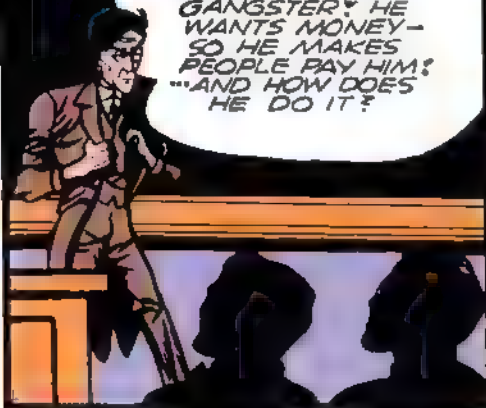


WHEN JONATHAN CRANE GREW UP HE BECAME A
TEACHER OF PSYCHOLOGY IN A UNIVERSITY--AND THIS
IS WHERE WE FIND HIM TODAY--



① THE NEXT DAY, AT CLASS--

TAKE THE
EXAMPLE OF THE
"PROTECTION RACKET"
WORKED BY THE
GANGSTER. HE
WANTS MONEY--
SO HE MAKES
PEOPLE PAY HIM!
...AND HOW DOES
HE DO IT?



② HE MAKES PEOPLE
AFRAID--AFRAID SO
THAT THEY PAY HIM?
YES...HE MAKES THEM
AFRAID--AFRAID--
AND HE GETS MONEY--
LOTS OF MONEY--
BECAUSE PEOPLE
ARE AFRAID OF HIM?



③ IN HIS HOME, CRANE'S
DISTORTED BRAIN BEGINS
THINKING ALONG FANTASTIC
LINES...ALONG CRIMINAL LINES--



④ SO I LOOK LIKE
A SCARECROW--
THAT WILL BE MY
SYMBOL--A SYMBOL
OF POVERTY AND
FEAR COMBINED!
THE PERFECT
SYMBOL...THE
SCARECROW!



⑤ I'M THE
SCARECROW!
I'VE COME TO
SELL YOU MY
SERVICES--

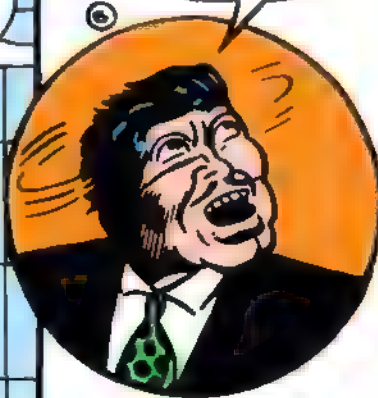


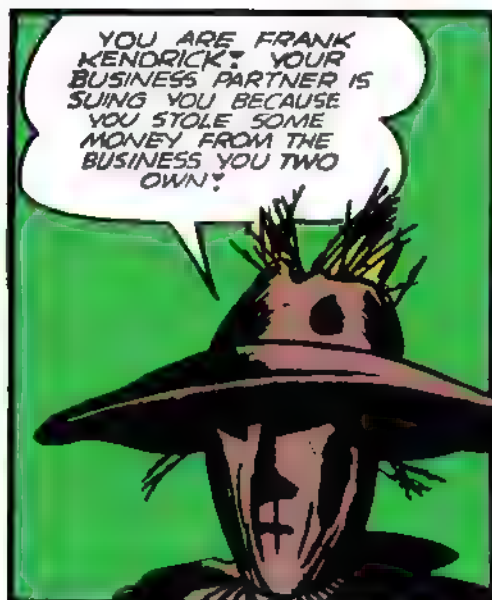
⑥ THREE NIGHTS LATER--
IN THE HOME OF A CERTAIN
BUSINESSMAN--

WHAT?
STRAWS?

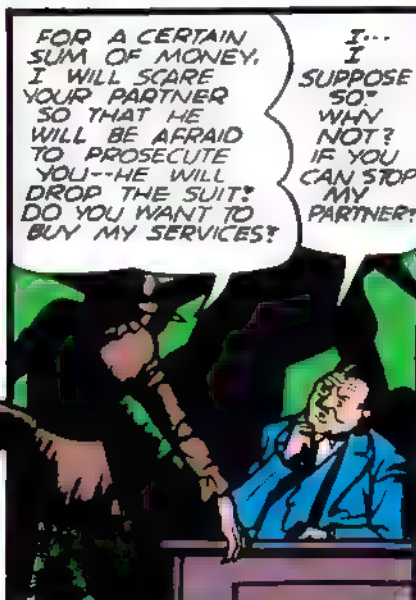
YES--MY
FRIEND--
STRAWS--
IT IS MY
SIGN!

WHO--
WHAT
ARE YOU?



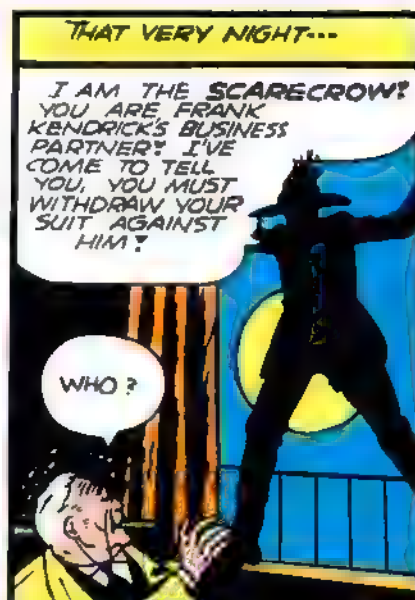


YOU ARE FRANK KENDRICK? YOUR BUSINESS PARTNER IS SUING YOU BECAUSE YOU STOLE SOME MONEY FROM THE BUSINESS YOU TWO OWN?



FOR A CERTAIN SUM OF MONEY, I WILL SCARE YOUR PARTNER SO THAT HE WILL BE AFRAID TO PROSECUTE YOU--HE WILL DROP THE SUIT. DO YOU WANT TO BUY MY SERVICES?

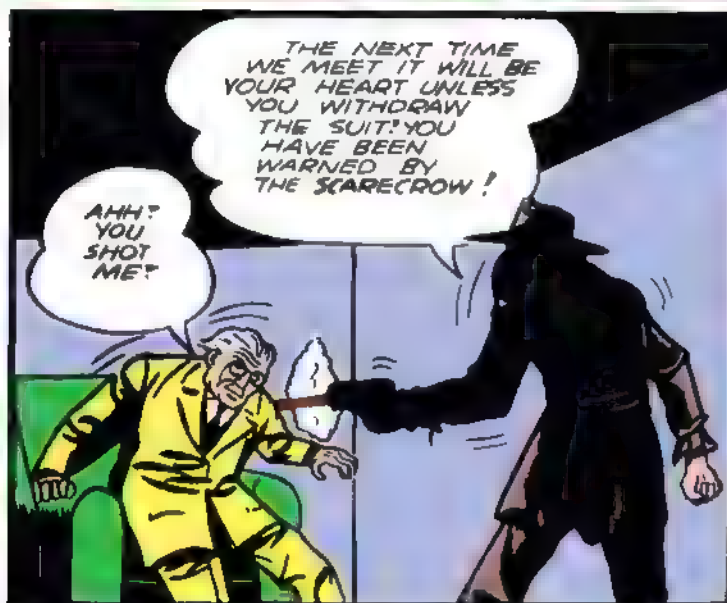
I... I SUPPOSE SO. WHY NOT? IF YOU CAN STOP MY PARTNER?



THAT VERY NIGHT...

I AM THE SCARECROW? YOU ARE FRANK KENDRICK'S BUSINESS PARTNER? I'VE COME TO TELL YOU, YOU MUST WITHDRAW YOUR SUIT AGAINST HIM?

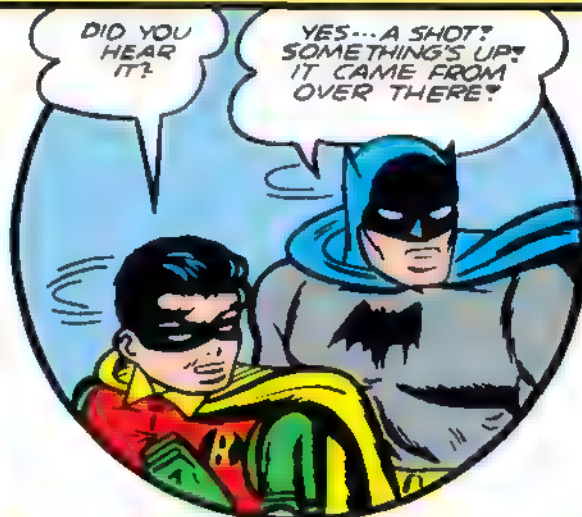
WHO?



THE NEXT TIME WE MEET IT WILL BE YOUR HEART UNLESS YOU WITHDRAW THE SUIT! YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED BY THE SCARECROW!

AHH? YOU SHOT ME?

THE BATMAN AND ROBIN DART LIGHTLY ACROSS THE ROOF-TOPS--



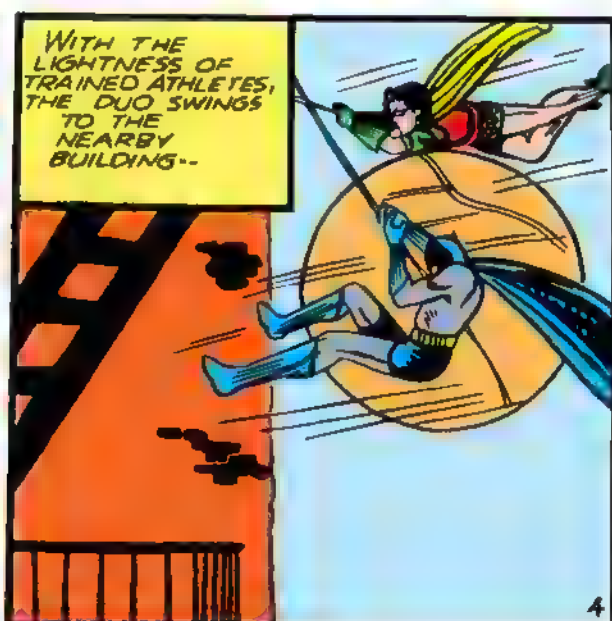
DID YOU HEAR IT?

YES... A SHOT? SOMETHING'S UP! IT CAME FROM OVER THERE!



WHAT IS IT?

LOOKS LIKE A WALKING SCARECROW-- COME ON, ROBIN!

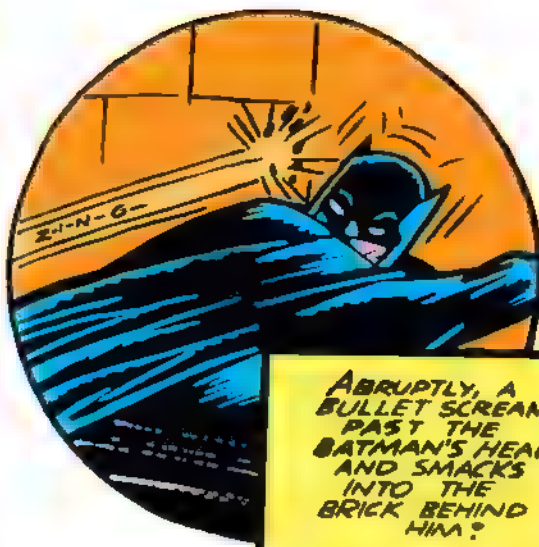


WITH THE LIGHTNESS OF TRAINED ATHLETES, THE DUO SWINGS TO THE NEARBY BUILDING--

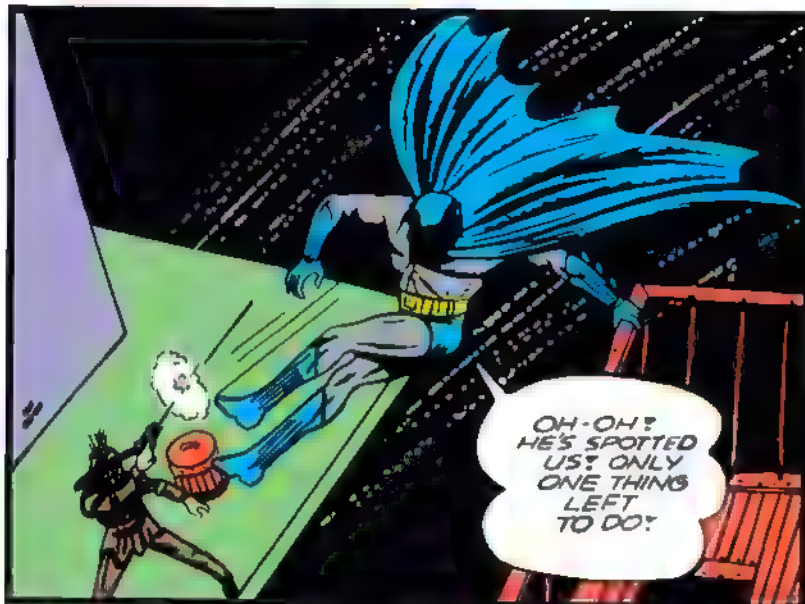
DOWN THE FIRE ESCAPE THEY
RACE IN PURSUIT OF THE
SCARECROW---



COME
ON, ROBIN!
THAT FELLOW'S
FAST ON HIS
FEET!



ABRUPTLY, A
BULLET SCREAMS
PAST THE
BATMAN'S HEAD
AND SMACKS
INTO THE
BRICK BEHIND
HIM!



OH-OH?
HE'S SPOTTED
US! ONLY
ONE THING
LEFT
TO DO!



HI, PAL!



PLEASANT
DREAMS?



SLUG THE
BATMAN.
WILL YOU?



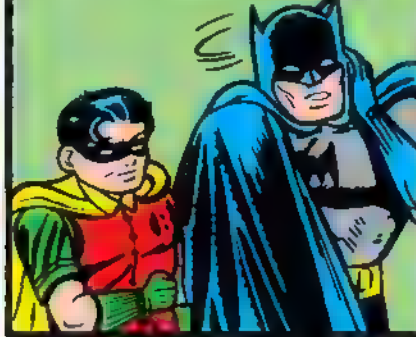
TAKE
THAT!

AND WITH QUEER GRASSHOPPER LEAPS THE SCARECROW DISAPPEARS INTO THE BLACK NIGHT?



ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

JUST A BIT WOOLY! THAT WAS QUITE A CLOUT! OH-OH SIRENS! SOMEBODY HEARD THAT SHOT AND PHONED THE POLICE!



THE IS

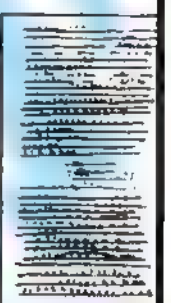
2 Cents

New York

BUSINESSMAN SHOT BY SCARECROW

WALKING SCARECROW WARNS HEROLD

PAUL HEROLD ACCUSES THE SCARECROW OF SHOOTING HIM. HE REFUSED TO WITHDRAW HIS LAWSUIT AGAINST HIM. NOW HE'LL NEVER SUE YOU?



AND FRANK KENDRICK SAYS--

DO YOU DENY HIRING THIS SCARECROW TO FRIGHTEN HEROLD INTO DROPPING HIS LAW SUIT?

OF COURSE I DO! CAN I HELP IT IF THIS SCARECROW PERSON TAKES AN INTEREST IN MY AFFAIRS?



YOU KNOW WE CAN'T ARREST YOU WITHOUT PROOF? C'MON, BOYS! I DON'T LIKE THE AROMA IN THIS PLACE--SMELLS LIKE A SKUNK IS LOOSE HERE--



AND THAT VERY NIGHT, AS PAUL HEROLD READS, GUNFIRE CRASHES THROUGH HIS ROOM--



THE SCARECROW WARNS ONLY ONCE!

AND WHEN THE POLICE ARRIVE---

HEROLD--MURDERED--AND LOOK AT THIS I FOUND?

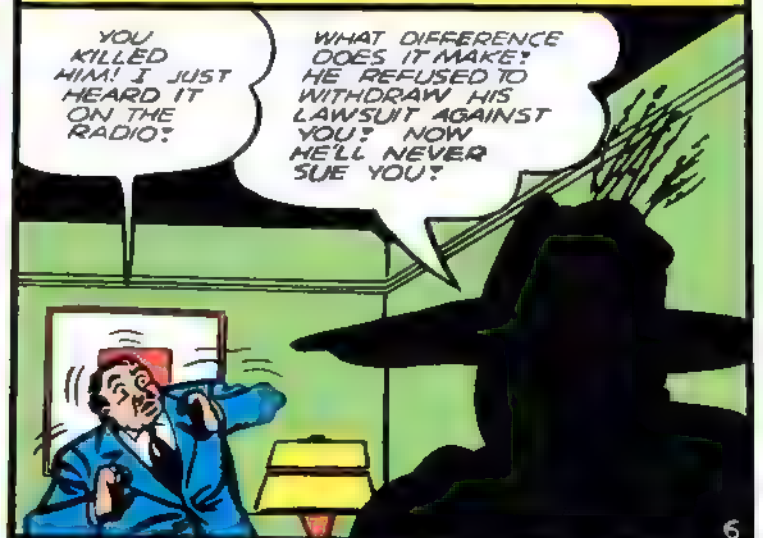
STRAW! THE SCARECROW LEFT HIS CALLING CARD--



AND FRANK KENDRICK HAS A VISITOR---

YOU KILLED HIM! I JUST HEARD IT ON THE RADIO?

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE? HE REFUSED TO WITHDRAW HIS LAWSUIT AGAINST YOU? NOW HE'LL NEVER SUE YOU?



PROFESSOR JONATHAN CRANE IS CALLED INTO THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE--

WE HAVE DECIDED TO RELIEVE YOU OF YOUR PROFESSORSHIP HERE! YOUR TEACHINGS ARE ENTIRELY TOO FANATICAL--SUCH AS YOUR SHOOTING A GUN OFF IN CLASS-- WE FEEL---

BAH! WHO CARES WHAT YOU FEEL? I HAVE MONEY NOW. I DON'T NEED YOU ANY MORE!

AND THAT NIGHT IN HIS ROOM, CRANE PONDERES---

THEY FIRED ME? WHO WANTED TO BE A DULL TEACHER ANYWAY? NOW I CAN HAVE MONEY--MORE MONEY---

DAILY GLOBE
28
SCARECROW
WHY THE SCARECROW STRIKES AGAIN AND AGAIN?

AND NOW THE ENSUING DAYS TELL OF THE BEGINNING OF A GREAT CRIME MASTER--OF THE BEGINNING OF DAYS OF TERROR? THE SCARECROW STRIKES AGAIN AND AGAIN?

BRUCE WAYNE MEETS AN OLD FRIEND--THE PRESIDENT OF THE COLLEGE

HELLO, MARTIN! HOW ARE YOU? WHAT'S NEW?

NOTHING MUCH. WE PEOPLE OF COLLEGE USUALLY LEAD A FAIRLY UNEXCITING LIFE--

--- THIS "SCARECROW" CRANE, AS WE CALL HIM, WAVED A LARGE ROLL OF BILLS UNDER MY NOSE?

SCARECROW? I WONDER?

AND SPENDS ALL HIS MONEY ON ANCIENT BOOKS, YOU SAY?

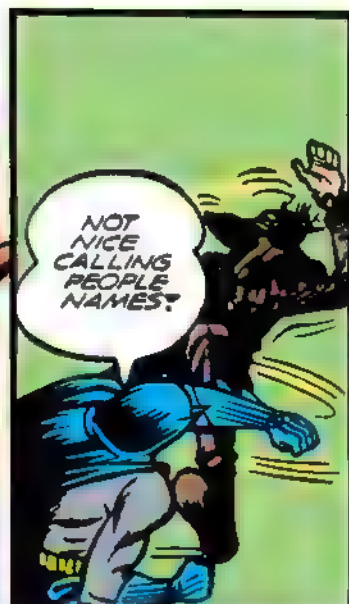
AND AT THAT VERY MOMENT, THE SCARECROW PAYS ANOTHER CALL ON A PROSPECTIVE CLIENT?

YOU? SCARECROW?

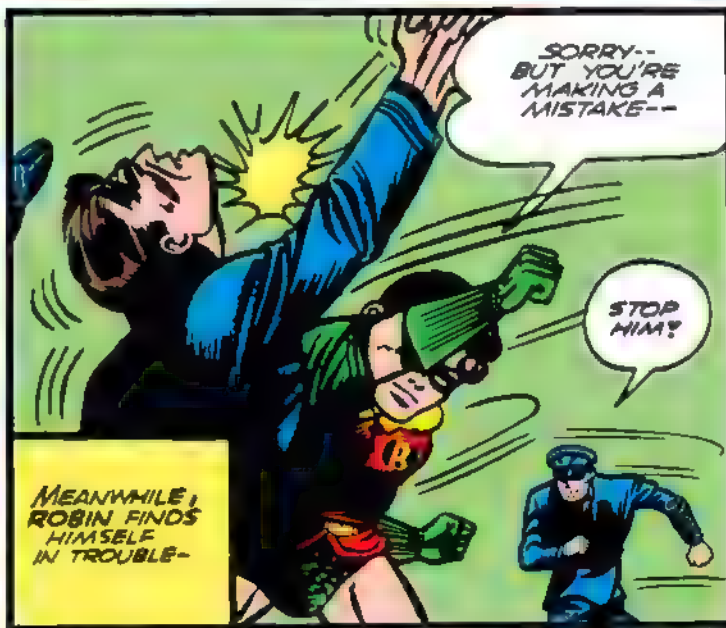
YES--AND YOU ARE RICHARD DODGE---OWNER OF A FAILING DEPARTMENT STORE-- BEING PUT OUT OF BUSINESS BY A RIVAL-- SOMETHING I CAN REMEDY, IF YOU ARE INTERESTED?

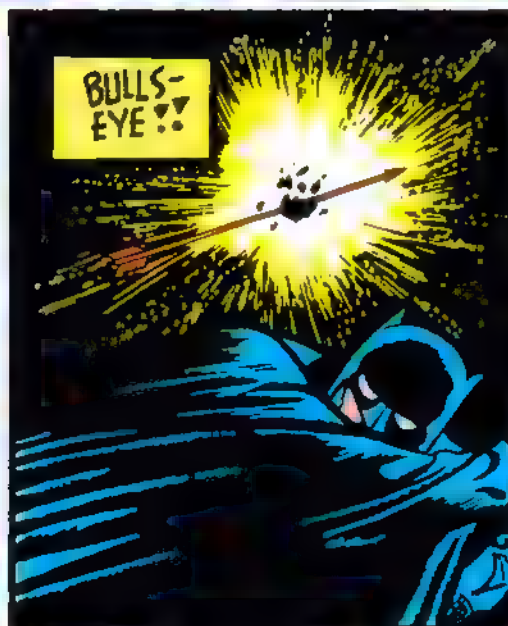
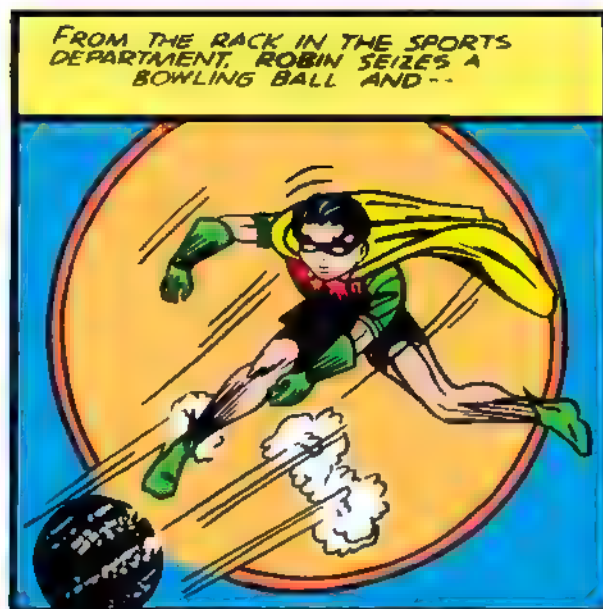


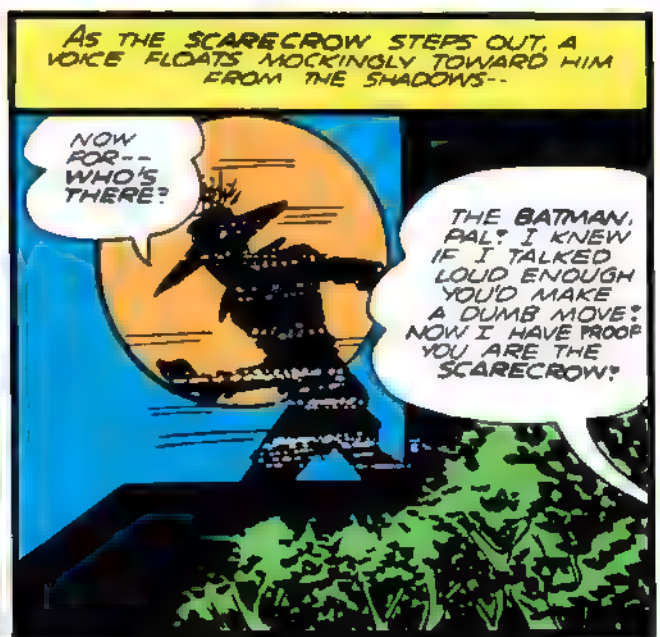
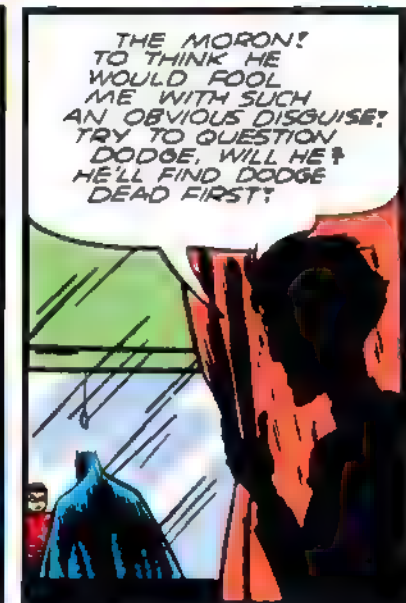
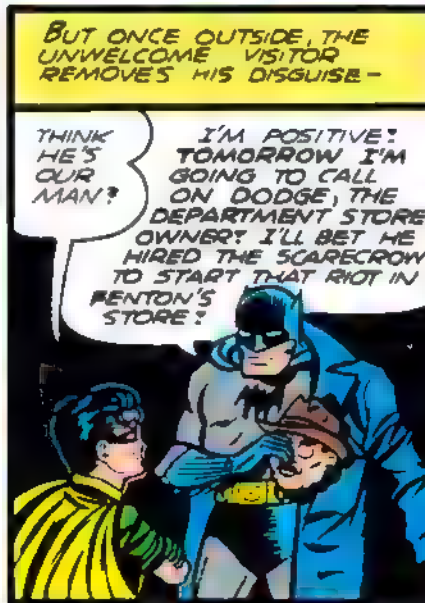
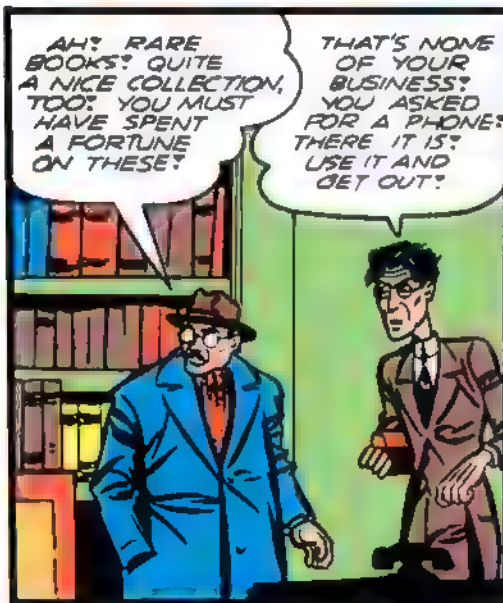
TOWARD THE CENTER OF CONFUSION,
RACE THE BATMAN AND ROBIN--TO
THE SCARECROW?

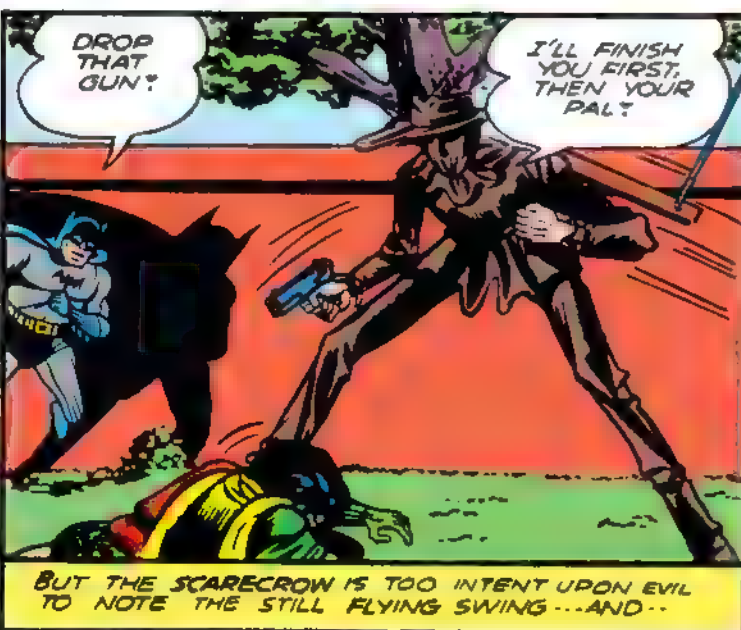
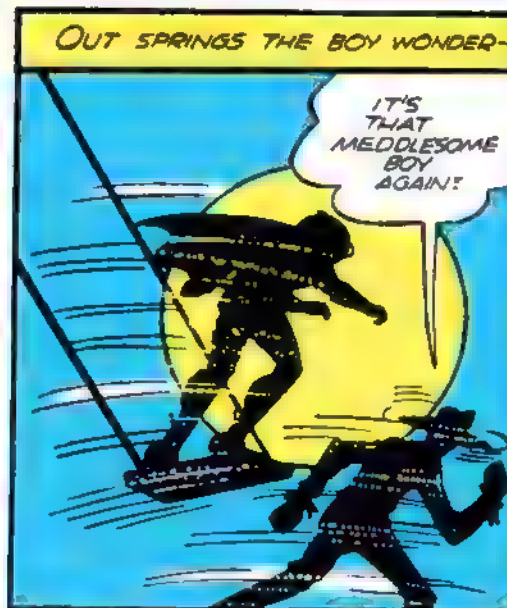
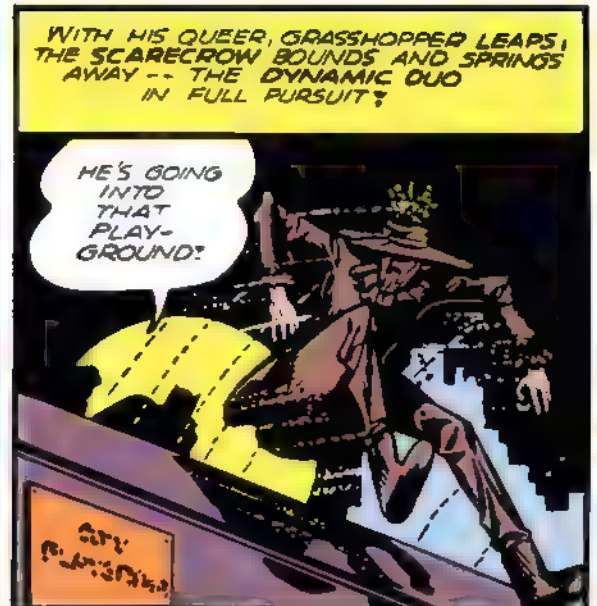
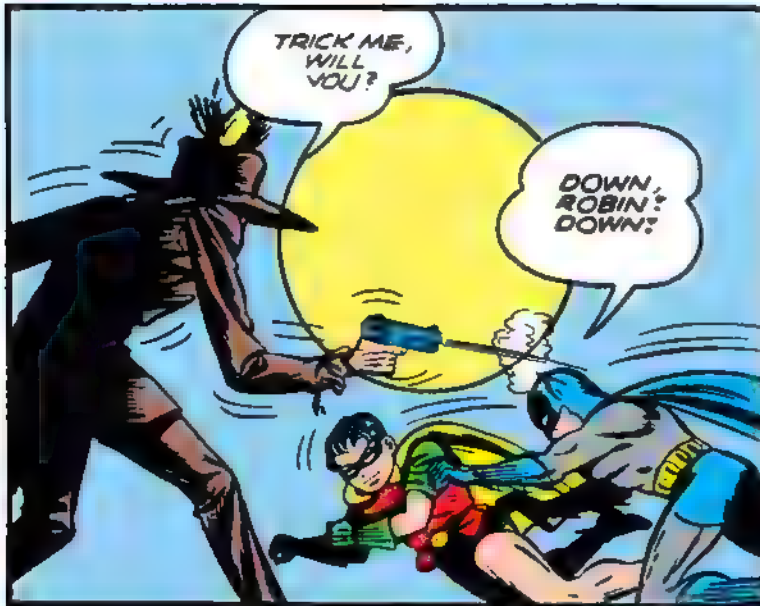


DOWN THE SLIPPERY LENGTH OF THE COUNTER SPINS
THE SCARECROW, THE BATMAN RACING TO MEET
HIM---

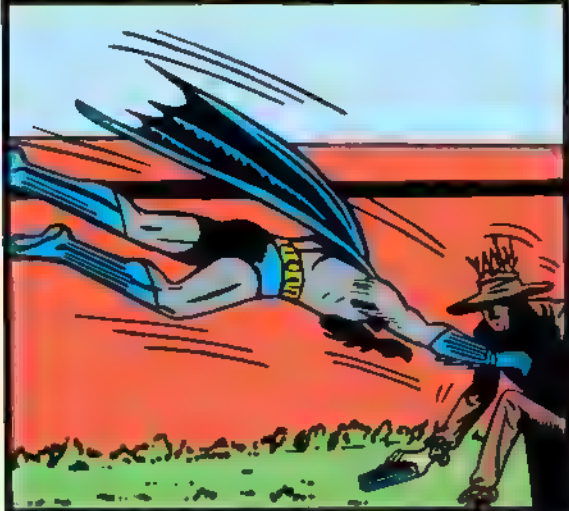








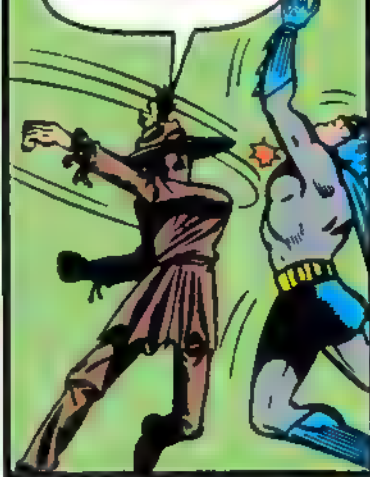
AS THE SCARECROW REACHES FOR HIS FALLEN GUN...THE BATMAN LEAPS:



A SHOT BLASTS PAST THE BATMAN'S FACE AS THEY LOCK IN A TERRIBLE STRUGGLE:

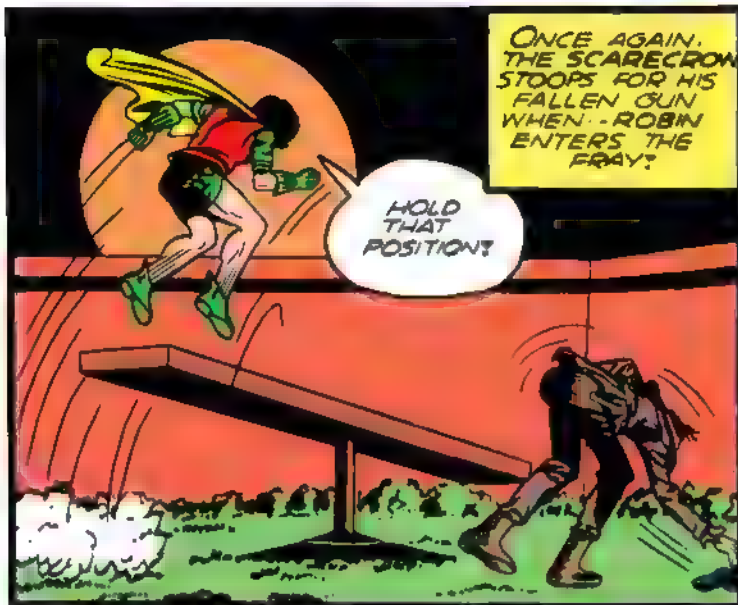


YOU'LL FIND I'M AS GOOD AT FIGHTING AS YOU ARE, BATMAN!



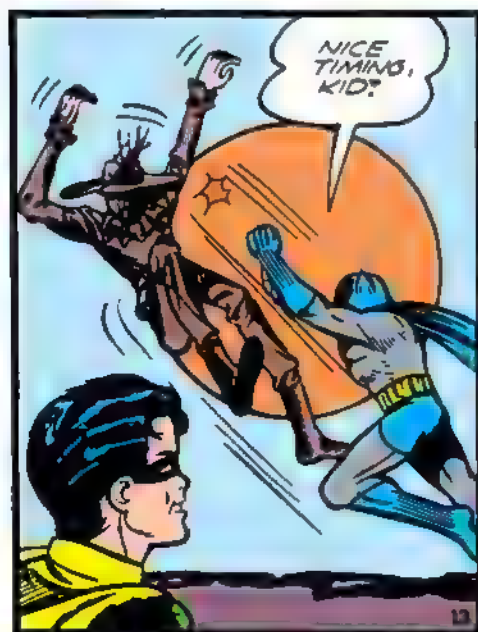
ONCE AGAIN, THE SCARECROW STOOPS FOR HIS FALLEN GUN WHEN...ROBIN ENTERS THE FRAY?

HOLD THAT POSITION!



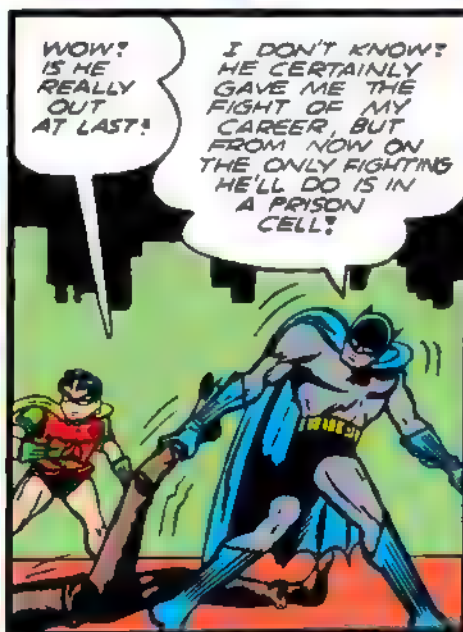
BOB KANE

NICE TIMING, KID?



WOW! IS HE REALLY OUT AT LAST!

I DON'T KNOW! HE CERTAINLY GAVE ME THE FIGHT OF MY CAREER, BUT FROM NOW ON THE ONLY FIGHTING HE'LL DO IS IN A PRISON CELL!



AND SO THE INFAMOUS, SHORT-LIVED CAREER OF THE SCARECROW COMES TO AN END AT LAST!

THE STUPID FOOLS ACTUALLY THINK THEY'RE GOING TO KEEP ME HERE--

THE End.

WILL THE SCARECROW RETURN? ONLY TIME... ONLY INSCRUTABLE TIME CAN TELL!



No.7



BATMAN

OCT.
NOV.



BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN



WHAT WAS THE REASON FOR THE PLAGUE OF MAD PRANKS THAT INFESTED GOTHAM CITY? WAS IT REALLY JUST DISTORTED HUMOR OR WAS THERE AN EVIL, CALCULATING THREAD OF EVIL WINDING THROUGH THIS PATTERN OF MAD MIRTH?

THE AMAZING ANSWER WAS TO BE FOUND BY THAT MANTLED NEMESIS OF CRIME--THE BATMAN! IT WAS THE BATMAN AND ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER, WHO SMASHED THEIR WAY THROUGH THIS MAZE OF MIRTH TO FIND THAT BEHIND IT ALL WAS THE LEAN MENACING FIGURE OF

the **JOKER!**

THE HOME OF SOCIALITE BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON--

SAY, BRUCE-- DO YOU REALLY THINK THE JOKER DIED WHEN HE FELL FROM THAT LIGHTHOUSE INTO THE WATER?

THAT QUESTION HAS BEEN BOTHERING ME, TOO. I WISH I KNEW THE ANSWER, BUT ONE THING YOU CAN BE CERTAIN OF--IF THE JOKER'S ALIVE, THERE'S GOING TO BE MORE DEVILRY AFOOT!



A QUEER AD APPEARS
IN THE MORNING
PAPER--

WANTED
PRACTICAL JOKERS--
ONLY THOSE WITH
EXPERIENCE NEED
APPLY. I. REKOJ
13 GLOOM ST.

MR REKOJ'S AD BRINGS MANY APPLICANTS ----

SO YOU ARE ALL
PRACTICAL JOKERS.
EH? ...WHAT
DO YOU
DO?

OW!

I GIVE PEOPLE
THE HOT-FOOT-
LIKE
THIS!

AND I CALL UP
PEOPLE DURING THE
NIGHT AND TELL
THEM THEIR HOUSE
IS ON FIRE!

I PULL
THE CHAIR
OUT FROM
UNDER PEOPLE
WHEN THEY'RE
ABOUT TO SIT
DOWN? SEE?

AND I PULL
HATS DOWN
OVER OTHER
PEOPLE'S EYES
LIKE THIS!

SPLENDID-
SPLENDID!
HA-HA!

REKOJ PROCEEDS TO WEED
OUT THE APPLICANTS, KEEPING
ONLY THOSE WHOSE PRANKS
ARE REALLY HARMFUL.

NOW THAT
THE OTHERS
HAVE GONE...
LINE UP AND
PASS BY THIS
TABLE--PICK
UP AN OBJECT
THERE, THATS
IT-- PICK
IT UP?

BUT...
BUT IT'S
A GUN !!

AFTER THEY
HAVE PICKED
UP THE OBJECTS
AND LAID THEM
DOWN ON THE TABLE
AGAIN--

EACH ONE OF
THESE OBJECTS
HAS BEEN PART OF
A MAJOR CRIME!
YOUR FINGERPRINTS
ARE ON THEM!
I COULD HAND YOU
OVER TO POLICE.
THEY COULD ACCUSE
YOU OF BEING
INVOLVED
IN THOSE
CRIMES.

SUDDENLY, THE MAN CALLED REKOJ
PAWS AT HIS FACE WITH HIS HANDS
AND REMOVES CLEVER MAKEUP,
IN PLACE OF REKOJ IS--

THE
JOKERY

NOW IF YOU WORK FOR
ME, YOU WILL MAKE MONEY.
REFUSE AND IT MEANS
JAIL, WHICH IS
IT? MONEY
OR JAIL? PERHAPS
DEATH?

THERE'S
NOT
MUCH
CHOICE?

GOOD? NOW I'M
GOING TO LET
YOU DO WHAT I
KNOW YOU LIKE
MOST TO DO--PLAY
JOKES ON PEOPLE?
AND WHAT JOKES THEY
ARE GOING TO BE?
HA-HA?

A FEW DAYS LATER,
THERE ARE FALSE
ALARM FIRES--

THERE'S
NO FIRE
HERE?

I'D LIKE
TO GET
MY HANDS
ON THE
GUY THAT
TURNED
THAT CALL
IN?

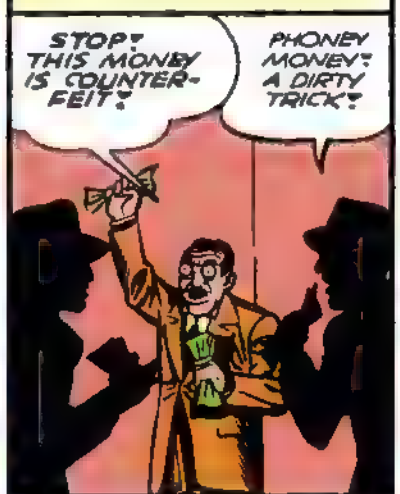
A MAN TAKES A SHOWER ONLY TO FIND THE WATER TAPS ARE NOW SWITCHED! WHAT SHOULD BE COLD WATER IS REALLY SCALDING HOT!



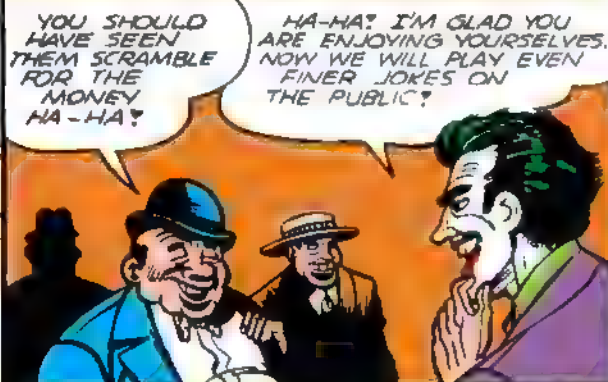
A MAN CAUSES A MINOR RIOT IN A BANK BY THROWING AWAY WHAT IS APPARENTLY MONEY?



BUT A BANK TELLER EXAMINES THE GREEN PAPER AND YELLS OUT--



AND, OF COURSE, ALL THIS PLEASES THE JOKER IMMENSELY!



THE SHREWD JOKER REALIZES THESE EARLY PRANKS ACT LIKE A DRUG ON THESE SO-CALLED "HUMORISTS" AND THAT THEY ARE NOW READY FOR MORE VICIOUS TRICKS!

AUTO SIGNS ARE CHANGED ON ROADS, CAUSING TERRIBLE ACCIDENTS--



POISONS ARE PUT IN BOTTLES SUPPOSED TO CONTAIN BENEFICIAL MEDICINES?



ONE "HUMORIST" PULLS A SWITCH THAT SHUNTS A RAILROAD TRAIN ONTO THE WRONG TRACK? RESULT --- INSANE LAUGHTER... AND A TRAIN WRECK?



THEN, ONE DAY A PLANE SWOOPS DOWN OVER THE CITY?



THE LEAFLET!

HA-HA! I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PRACTICAL JOKES THAT YOU HAVE BEEN THE VICTIM OF, AND LY. I LAUGH AT YOU, AND I LAUGH AT THE BLUNDERING POLICE WHO WILL BE UNABLE TO STOP ME FROM STEALING A VALUABLE GEM. I LAUGH AT THE BATMAN WHO WILL ALSO TRY TO STOP ME!

THE JOKER

PUBLIC FEELING NOW RUNS HIGH? NO-BODY LIKES TO BE LAUGHED AT-- ESPECIALLY BY A CRIMINAL?

TAKE IT EASY, GORDON! YOU'RE LIKELY TO BURST A BLOOD VESSEL!

HOW CAN I TAKE IT EASY WHILE THE JOKER LAUGHS AT THE WHOLE POLICE FORCE?

POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON!

MY NAME IS HENRY VERNE. READ THIS NOTE I RECEIVED THIS MORNING?

"TOMORROW NIGHT I WILL ENTER YOUR HOME AND STEAL THE GREAT DIAMOND YOU POSSESS: THE JOKER"

WHAT CAN I DO? THE JOKER WILL SURELY STEAL MY DIAMOND?

NO, HE WON'T! YOU STAY AT HOME! WHEN THE JOKER ENTERS YOUR HOUSE, HE'S GOING TO WALK INTO A TRAP!

YOU HOPE?

AND AT THAT MOMENT--

YOU HAVE DONE WELL! THE PUBLIC AND THE POLICE ARE SO AROUSED AGAINST ME THAT OUR PLANS WILL CATCH THEM OFF-GUARD--

THE NEXT NIGHT-- A STRANGE TENSION GRIPS THE POLICEMEN POSTED ABOUT THE VERNE HOME--

I CAN HEAR VERNE PACING UP AND DOWN INSIDE-- BOY, IS HE NERVOUS!

I DON'T BLAME HIM! THIS WAITING AROUND FOR THE JOKER IS GETTING ME, TOO!

AND AT THAT VERY INSTANT, TWO MANTLED FIGURES LOPE SWIFTLY THROUGH GREY CITY STREETS: THEY ARE THE BATMAN AND ROBIN--

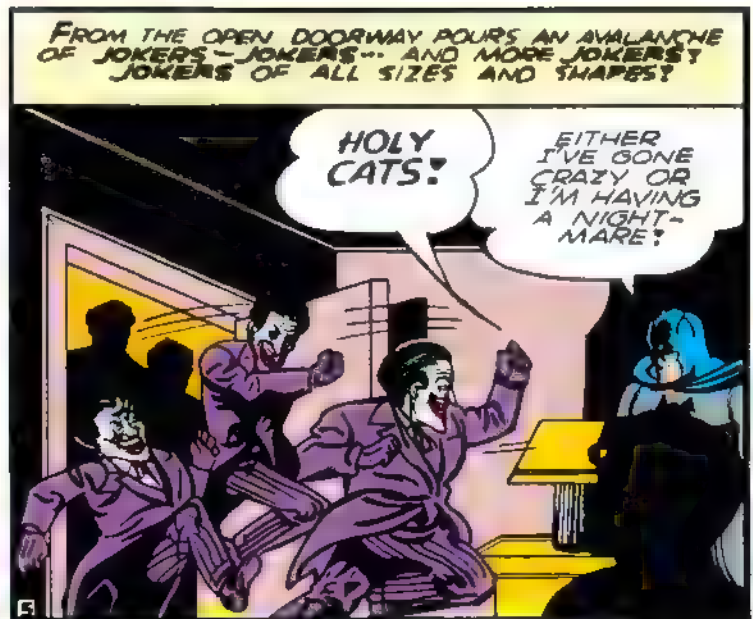
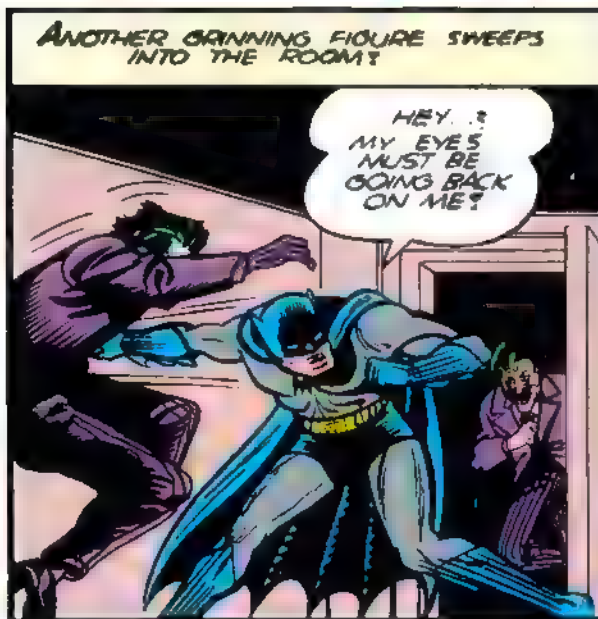
C'MON ROBIN, WE'VE GOT A DATE WITH THE JOKER!

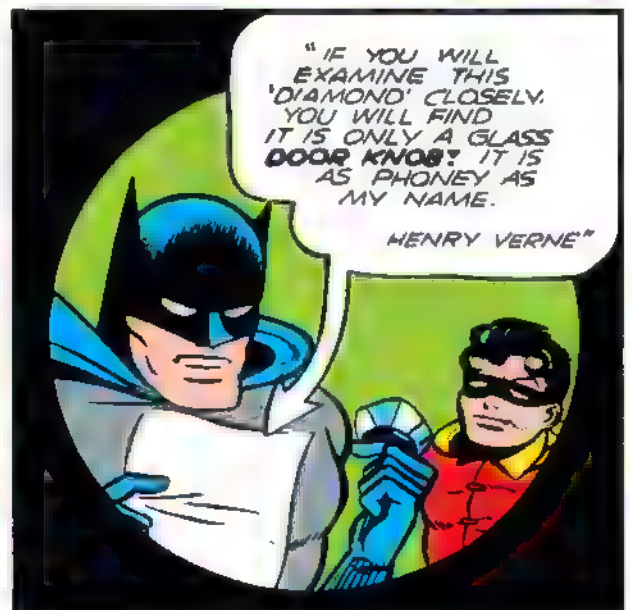
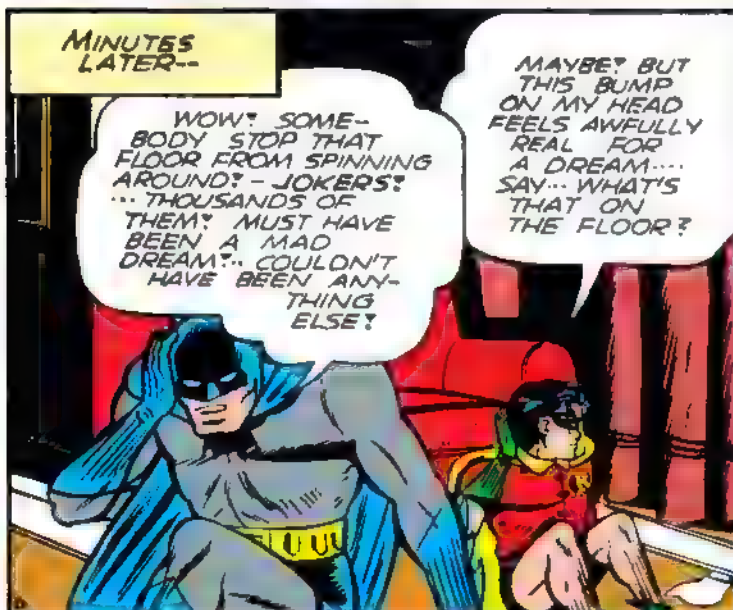
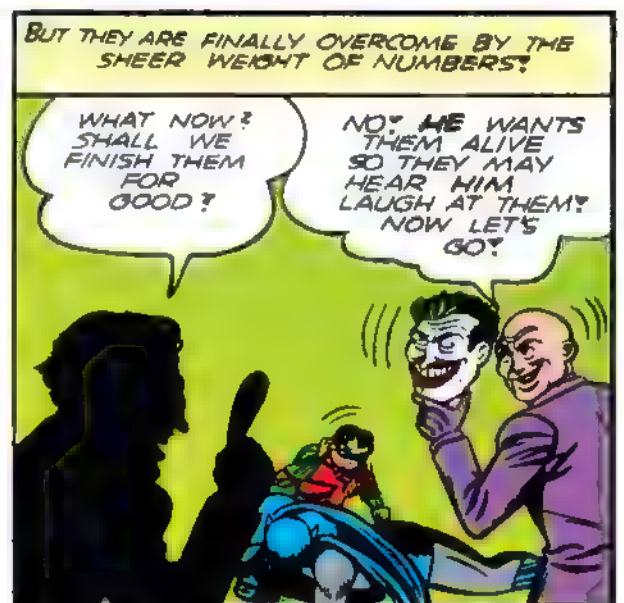
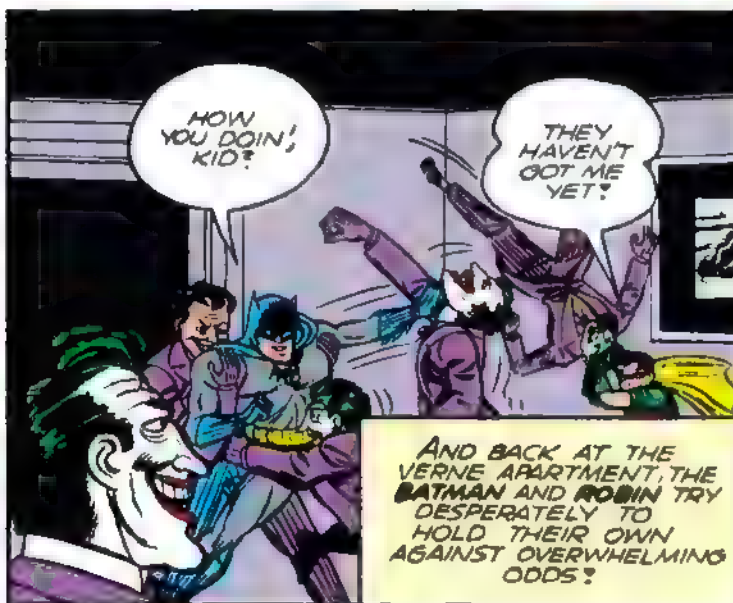
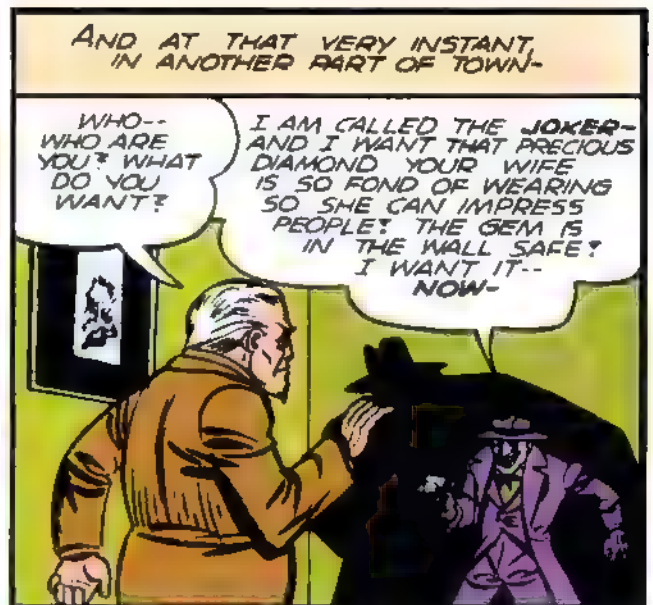
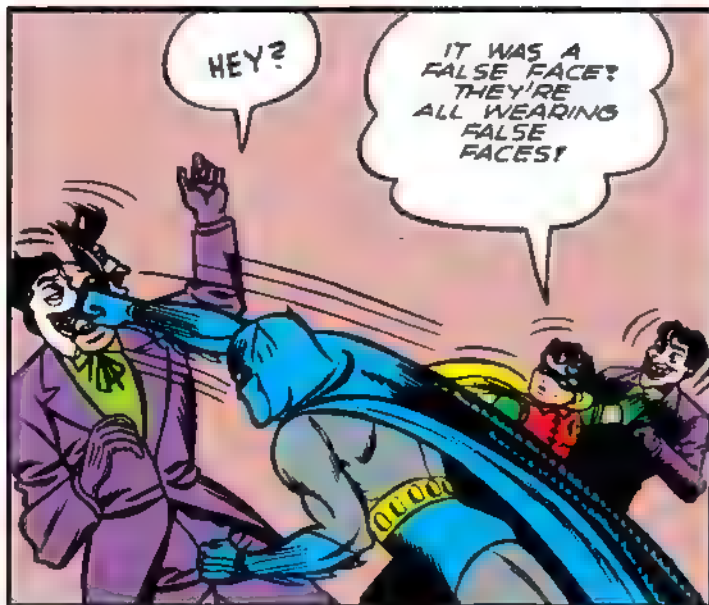
LET'S STEP IT UP!

WHEN THEY ARRIVE AT THE VERNE HOME--

LOOK! THEY'RE UNCONSCIOUS!

AND WITH THAT JOKER GRIN ON THEIR FACES? C'MON, LET'S HOPE WE'RE NOT TOO LATE!

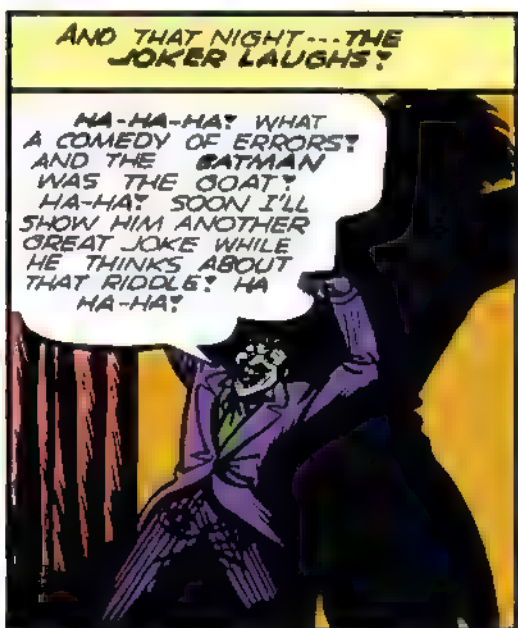
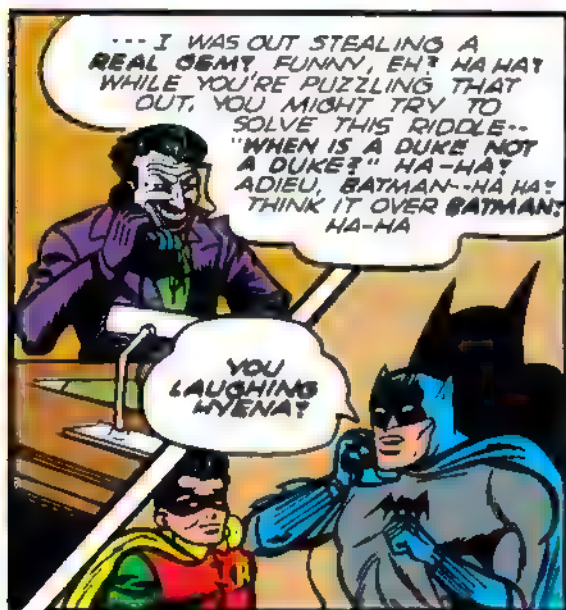
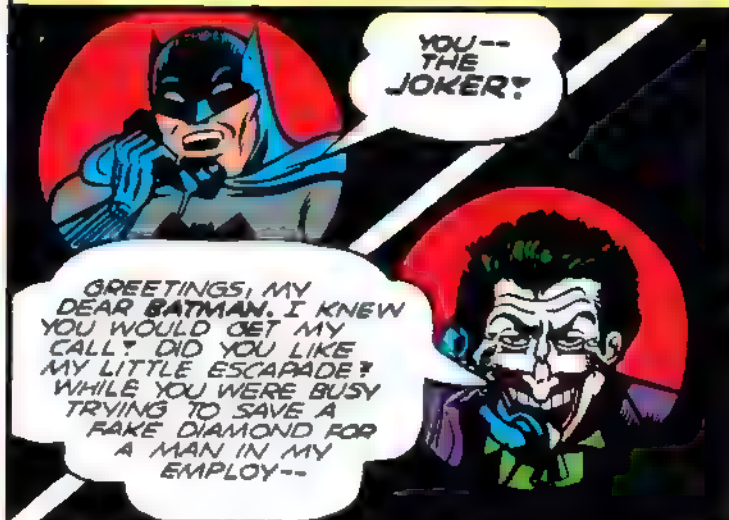


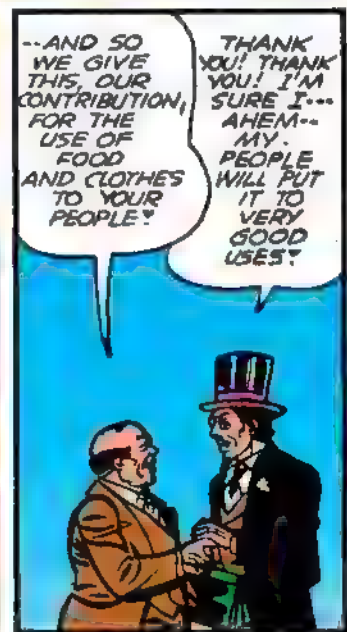


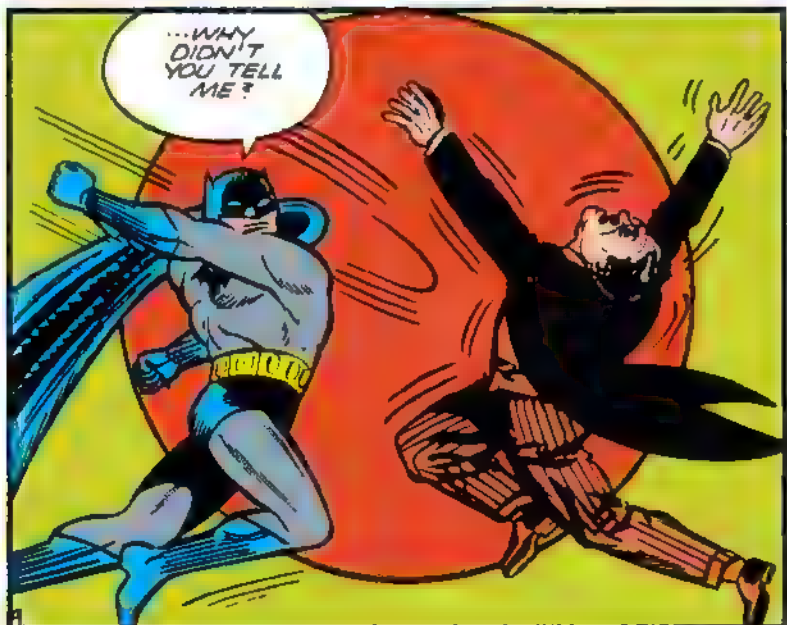
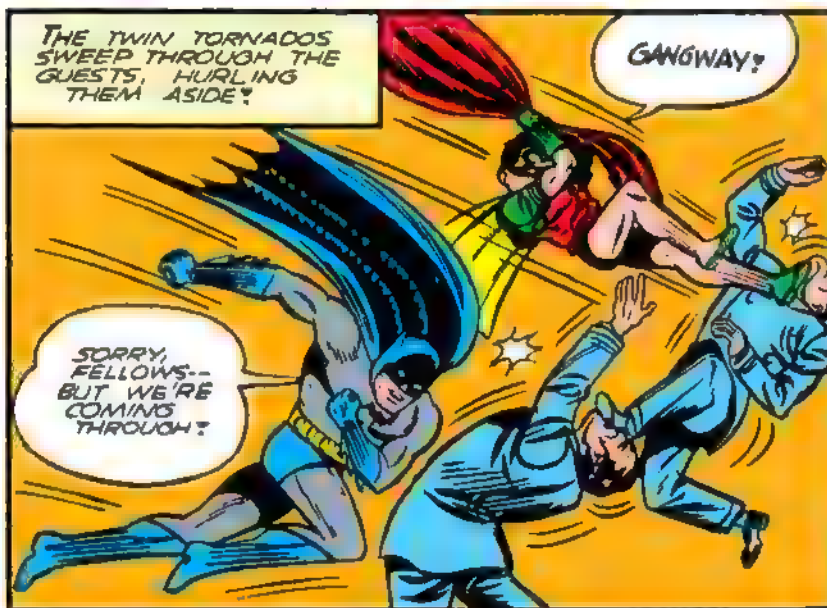
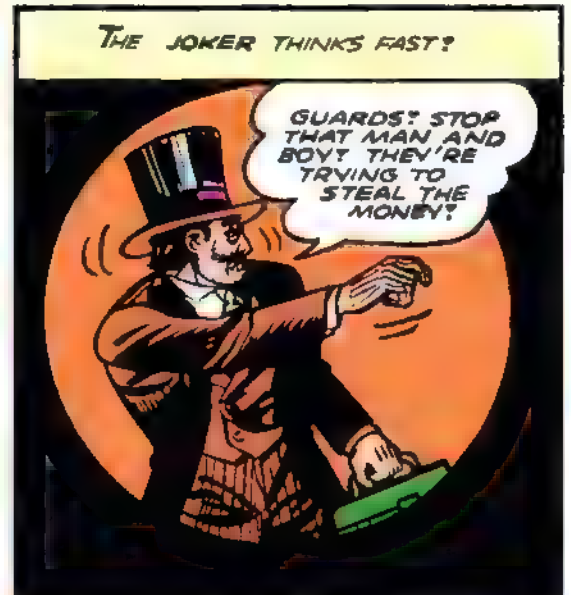
AS THE BATMAN AND ROBIN LOOK AT EACH OTHER BLANKLY, A BELL JANGLES RUDELY:



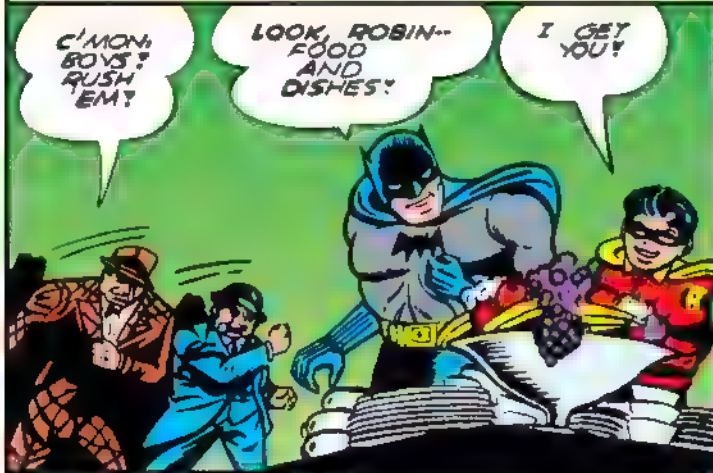
A TERRIBLY FAMILIAR, MOURNFUL VOICE FLOATS MOCKINGLY OVER THE WIRE--



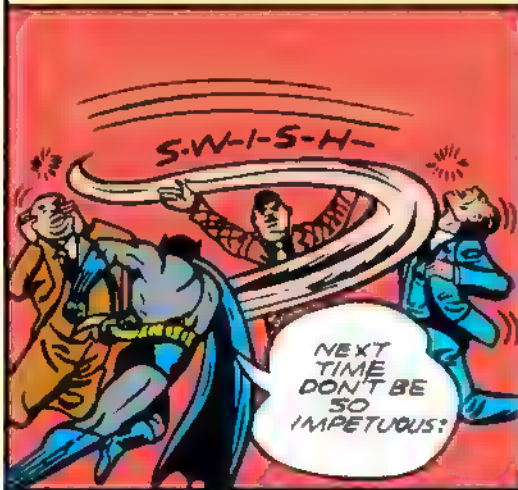




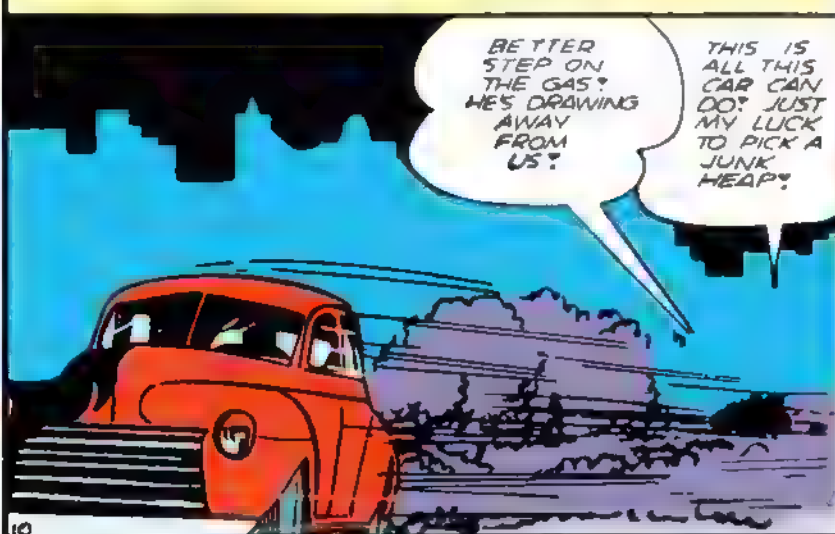
FROM THE VANTAGE POINTS WHERE THEY HAVE BEEN POSTED SWARM A HORDE OF THE JOKER'S MEN, ANXIOUS TO SAVE THE JOKER AND ESPECIALLY THE "10,000!"



AS THE MEN REACH FOR GUNS, THE BATMAN WHIPS THE TABLE-CLOTH AWAY AND ---SLAPS THEM SILLY---

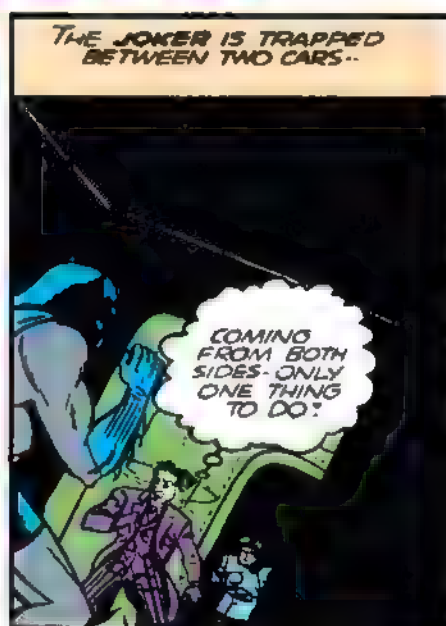
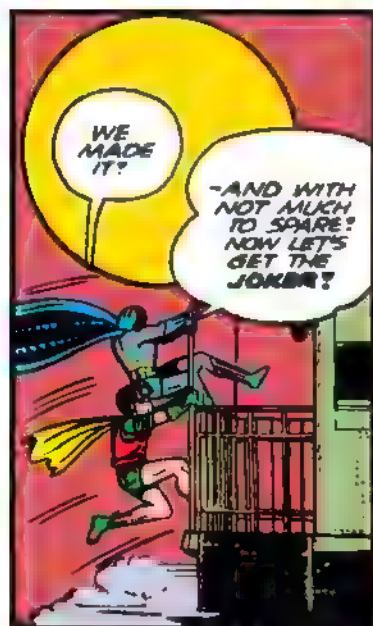
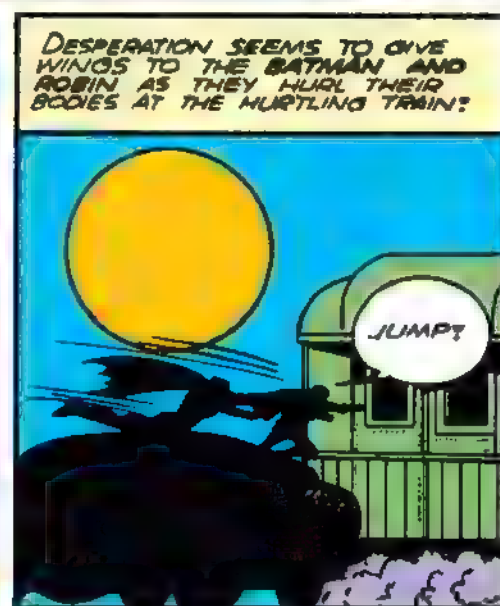
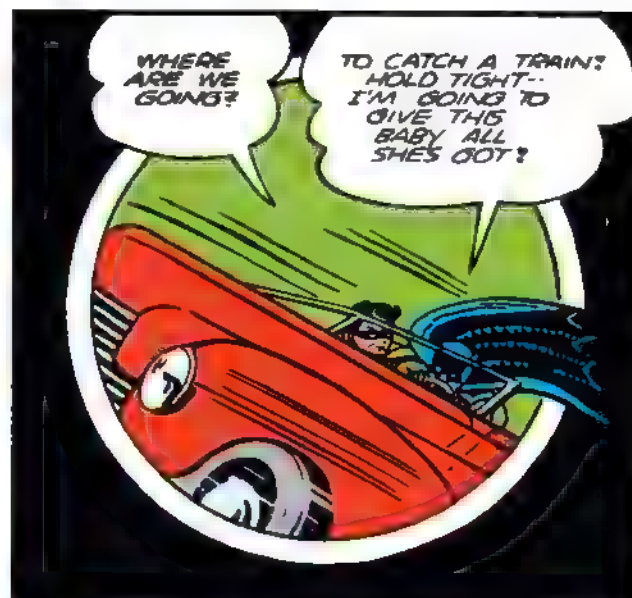
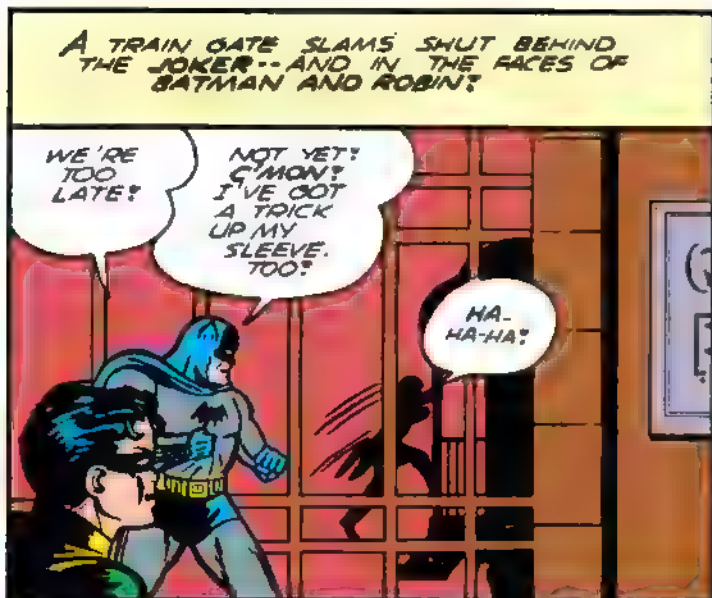


A WILD CHASE TAKES THE CARS TEARING THRU THE STREETS?



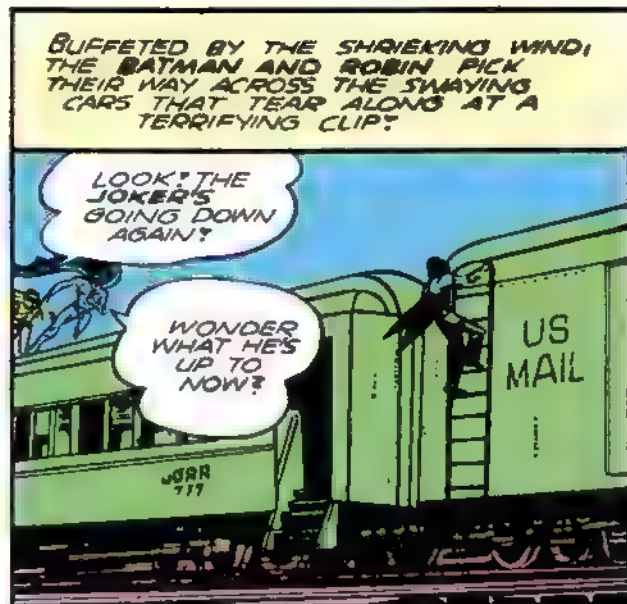
THE JOKER'S CAR SCREAMS TO A HALT?







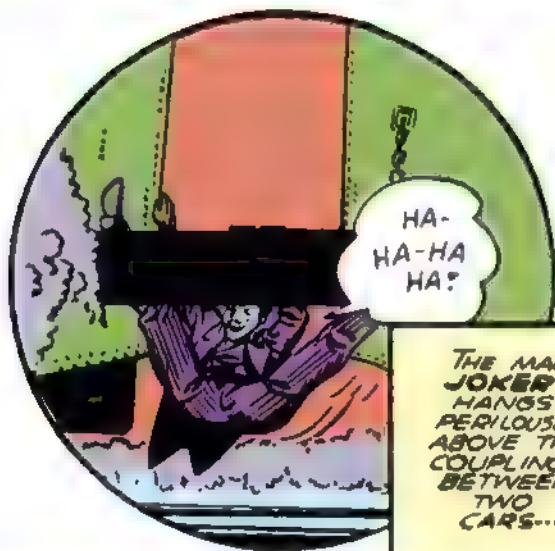
THE MANIAC
SCRAMBLES
TO THE
TOP OF
THE
LURCHING
TRAIN--



BUFFETED BY THE SHRIEKING WIND,
THE BATMAN AND ROBIN PICK
THEIR WAY ACROSS THE SWAYING
CARS THAT TEAR ALONG AT A
TERRIFYING CLIP?

LOOK! THE
JOKER'S
GOING DOWN
AGAIN?

WONDER
WHAT HE'S
UP TO
NOW?



HA-
HA-HA
HA?

THE MAD
JOKER
HANGS
PERILOUSLY
ABOVE THE
COUPLINGS
BETWEEN
TWO CARS...

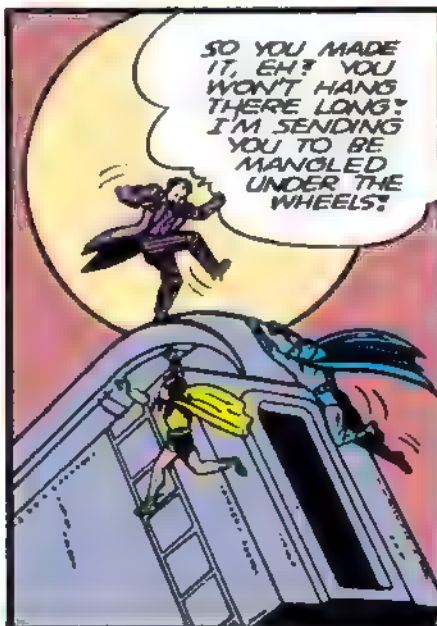


JUST
A LITTLE
MORE?

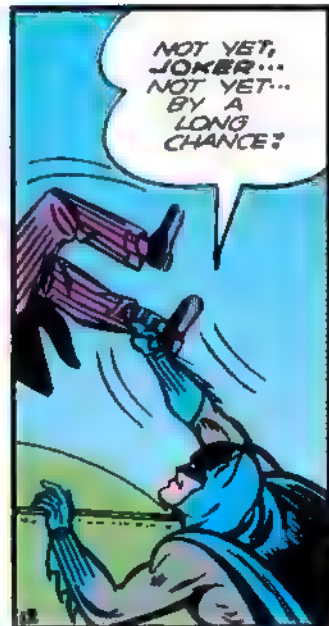
HIS STRONG,
LEAN
HANDS
PLUCK
AT THE
COUPLINGS,
LOOSENING
THEM--



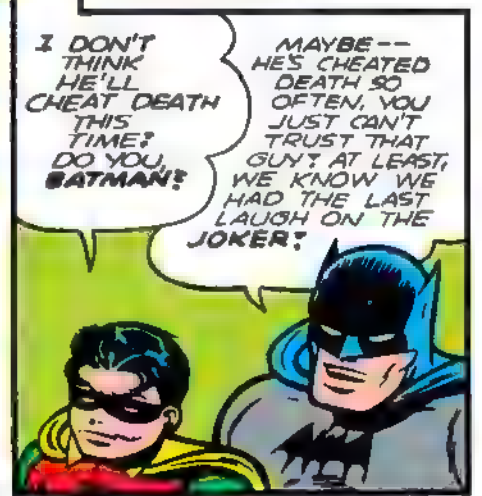
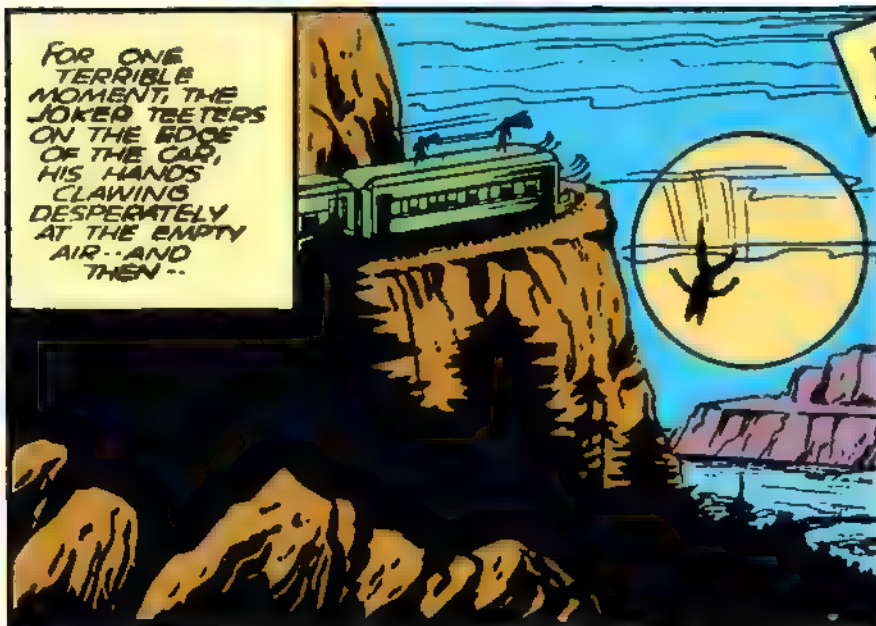
JUMP,
ROBIN--
JUMP?



SO YOU MADE
IT, EH? YOU
WON'T HANG
THERE LONG!
I'M SENDING
YOU TO BE
MANOELED
UNDER THE
WHEELS!



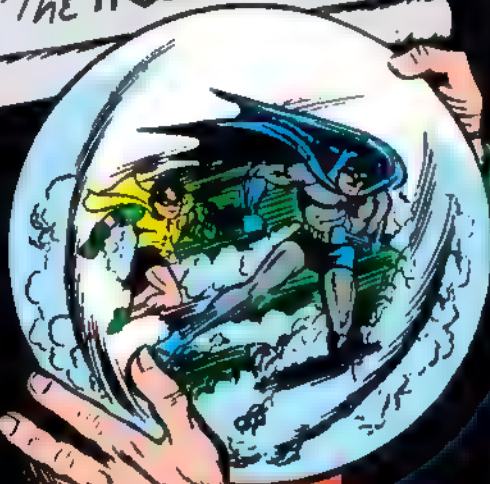
NOT YET,
JOKER...
NOT YET...
BY A
LONG
CHANCE?



BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN
- THE BOY WONDER -

ONCE AGAIN THE MIGHTY
BATMAN AND HIS LAUGHING
YOUNG AIDE ROBIN GO FORTH
ON A CHANCE TRAIL AND CROSS THE
PATH OF A MASTER CRIMINAL.
OUT OF A STRANGE MEDLEY
OF ADVENTURES THE BATMAN
AND ROBIN FIND THE PROOF
OF AN UGLY AND VICIOUS
RACKET THAT INVOLVES INNOCENT
MEN AND WOMEN WITH THEIR
USUAL DISREGARD OF DANGER
TO THEMSELVES. THE
DYNAMIC DUO FERRETS OUT
THIS EVIL CRIME-MASTER AND
BRINGS AN END TO THE
STRANGE TALE OF
"THE TROUBLE TRAP"!



NIGHT--A MAN RUNS FOR
HIS LIFE! HIGH ABOVE, TWO
MANTLED FIGURES WATCH--AND
ACT!





SLOWLY, INEXORABLY, THE GIANT HANDS CLOSE TIGHTLY ABOUT THE THROATS OF THE STRUGGLING BATMAN AND ROBIN--



AS THE DESPERATE BATMAN GASPS FOR AIR, HIS FOOT LASHES OUT IN ONE LAST-DITCH EFFORT--



MOMENTARILY STUNNED, THE BRUTE RELEASES HIS DEATH GRIP. THE BATMAN'S HAND REACHES FOR ONE OF THE GLASS PELLETS IN HIS UTILITY BELT--



A FLING OF THE BATMAN'S HAND--AND BLACK SMOKE BILLOWS FORTH--



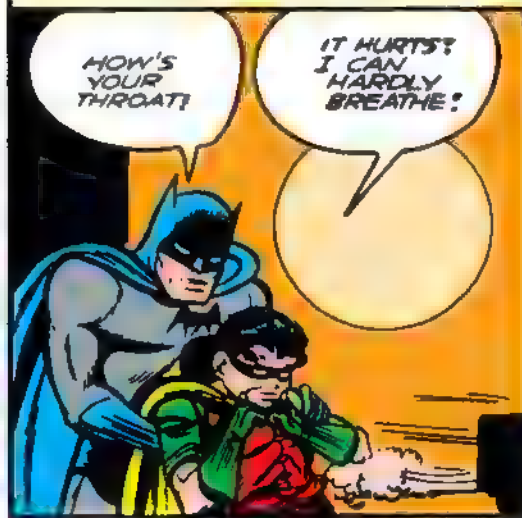
OKAY, BIG BOY-- DROP HIM!

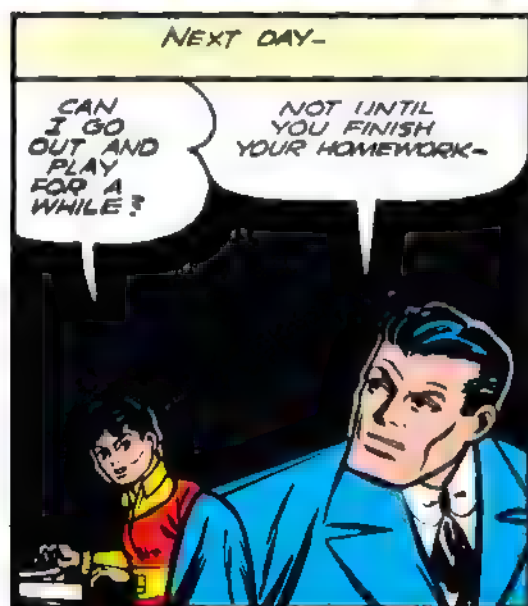


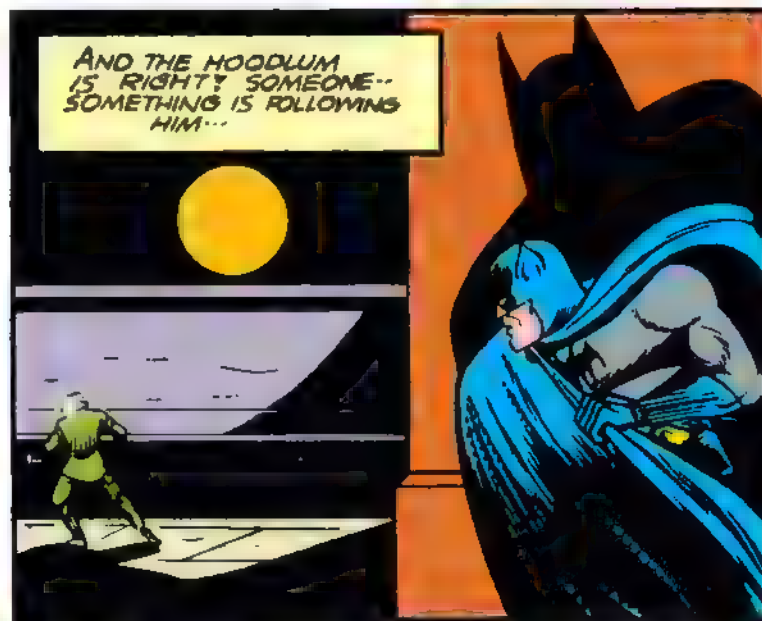
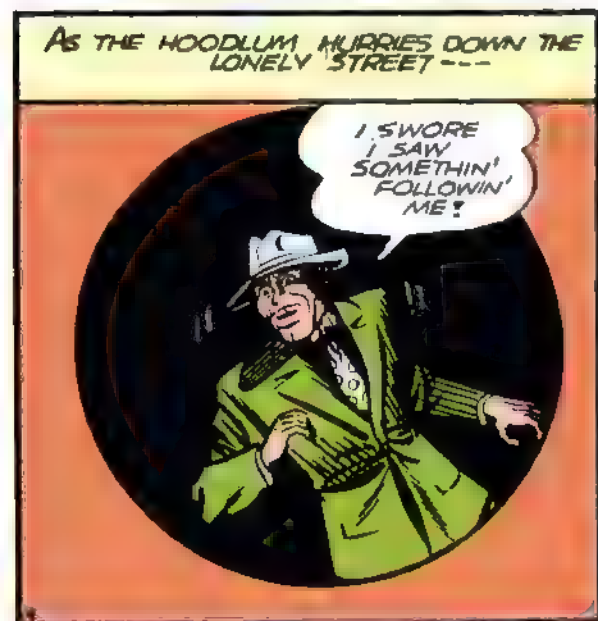
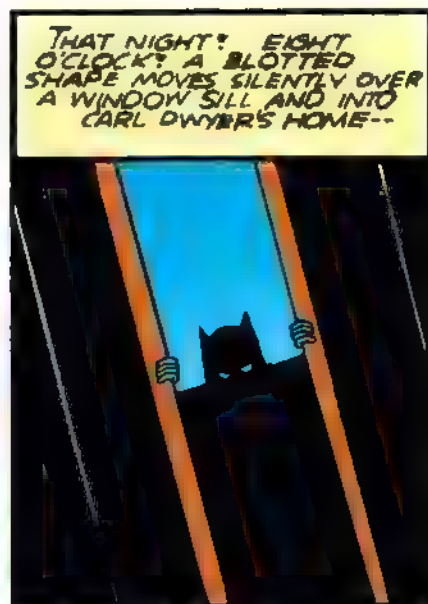
SUDDENLY, THE EERIE WALL OF A POLICE SIREN FILLS THE NIGHT--

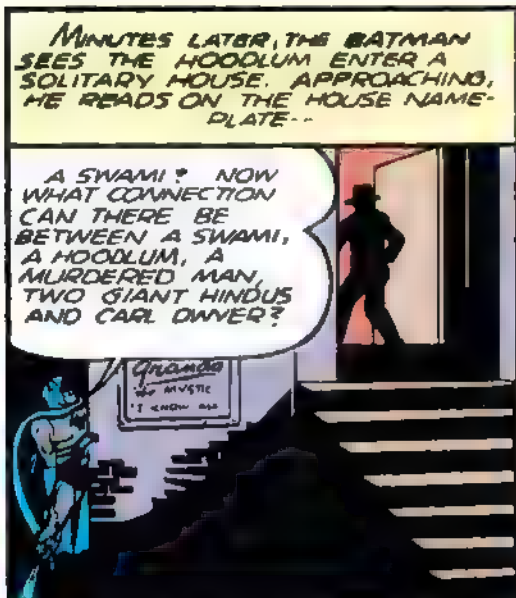


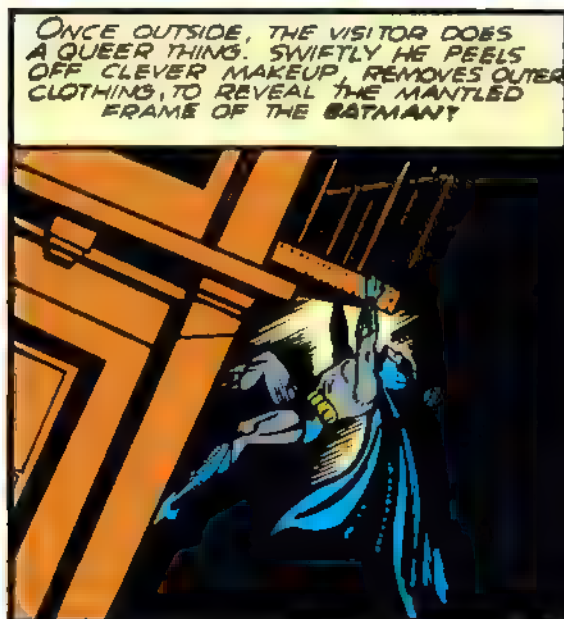
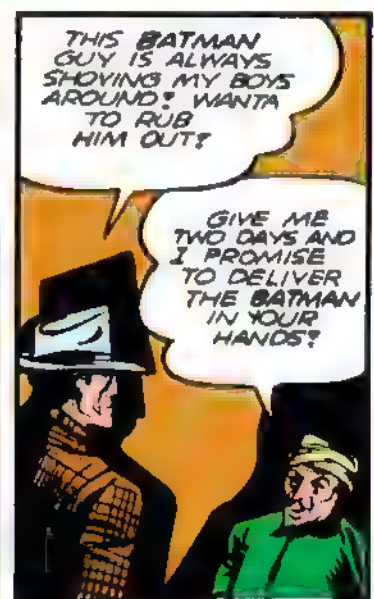
THE TRUCK WHIPS AWAY FROM THE CURB, AND MAKES THE CORNER ON TWO WHEELS!

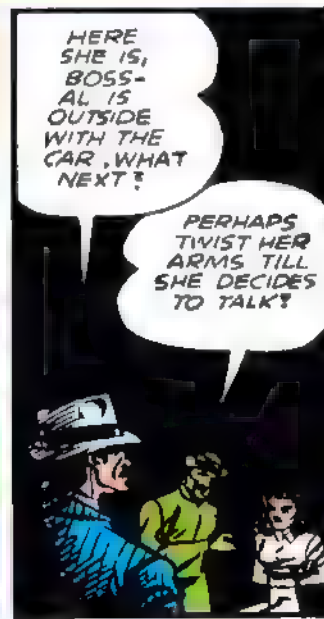
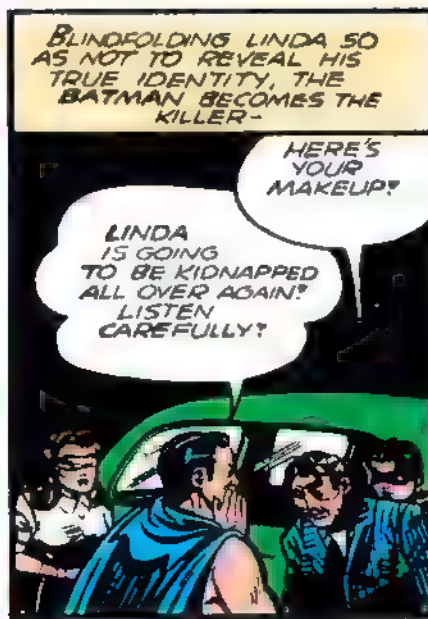
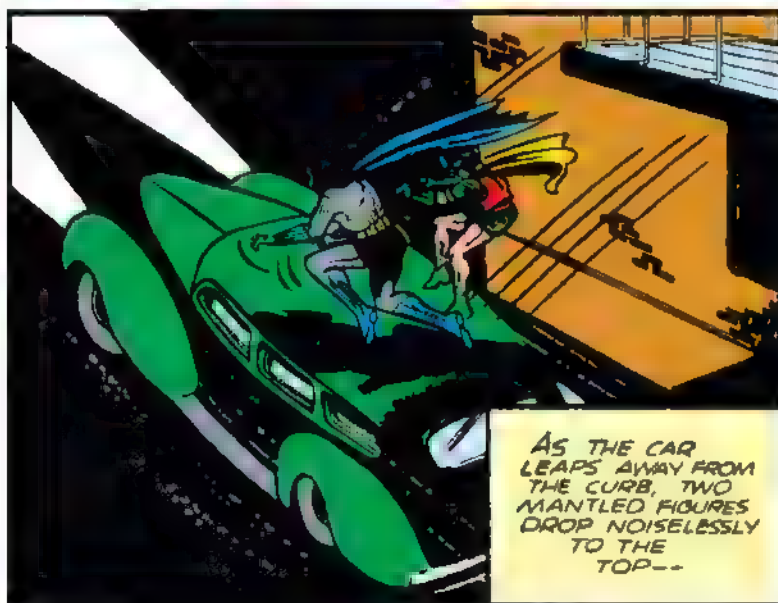
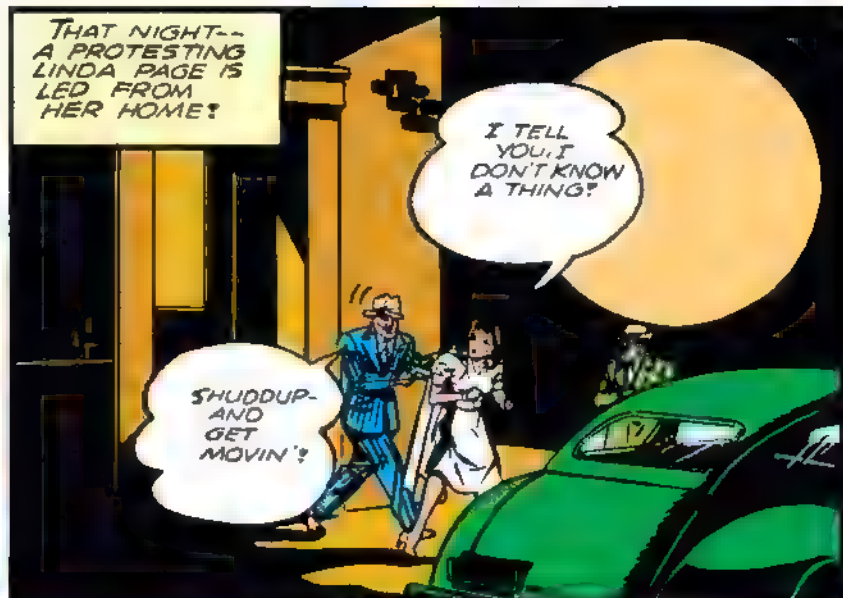


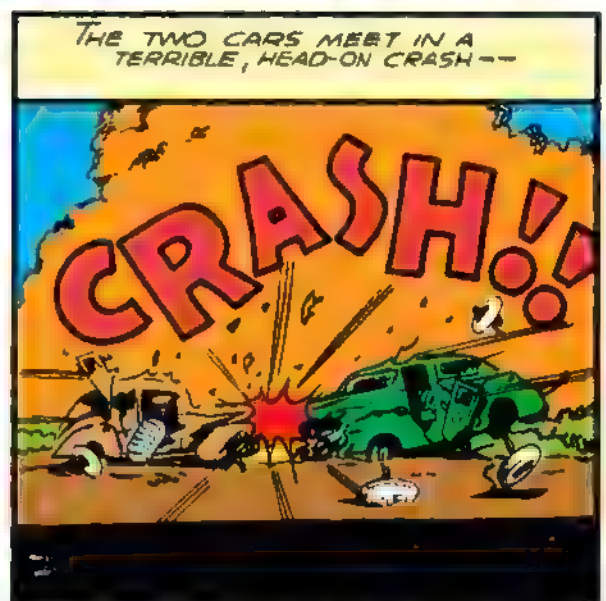












THE LIGHTS FLASH ON AND
STANDING, TOWERING IN THE LIGHT---

THE
BATMAN?
YOU WERE
JOE?

YOU'RE
GETTING
SMARTER
BY THE
MINUTE?



EVEN AS THE
BATMAN CATAPULTS
FORWARD, GRANDPA'S
FOOT FURTIVELY
PRESSES A FLOOR
BUTTON, AND--



--THE HINDU GIANTS LUMBER
INTO THE ROOM--

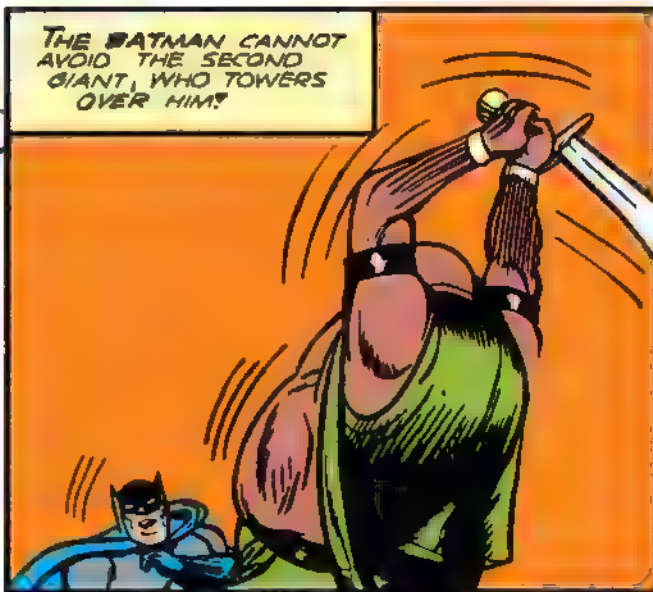
HOLY SMOKE!
THE BIG
BOYS AGAIN--



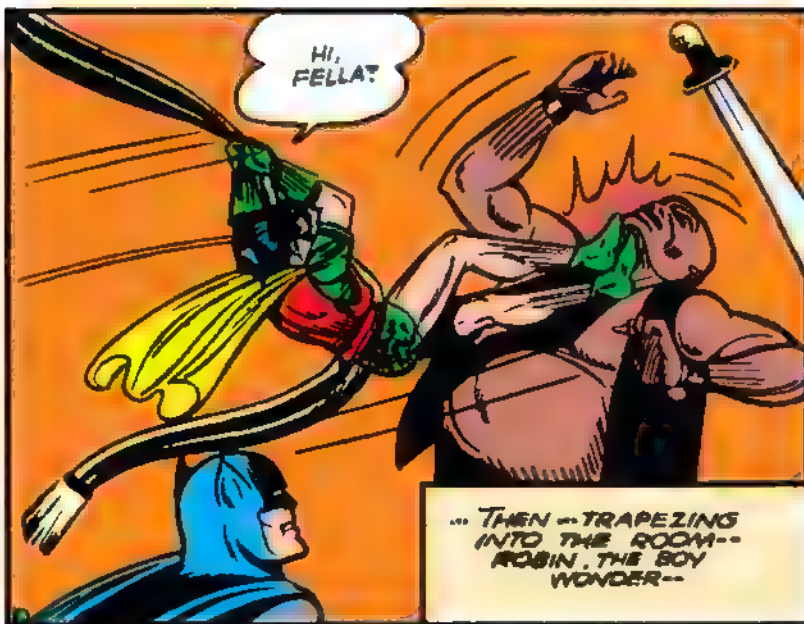
NIMBLE AS A
CAT, THE
BATMAN SLIPS
BENEATH THE
SLASHING
BLADE!



THE BATMAN CANNOT
AVOID THE SECOND
GIANT, WHO TOWERS
OVER HIM!



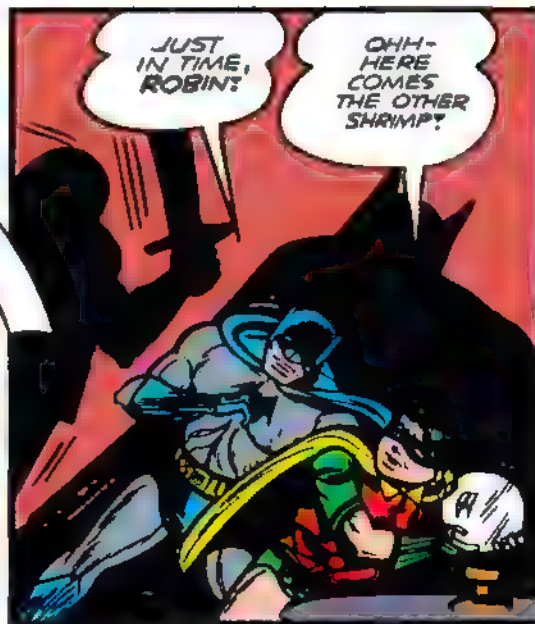
HI,
FELLA?



-- THEN --TRAPEZING
INTO THE ROOM--
ROBIN, THE BOY
WONDER--

JUST
IN TIME,
ROBIN!

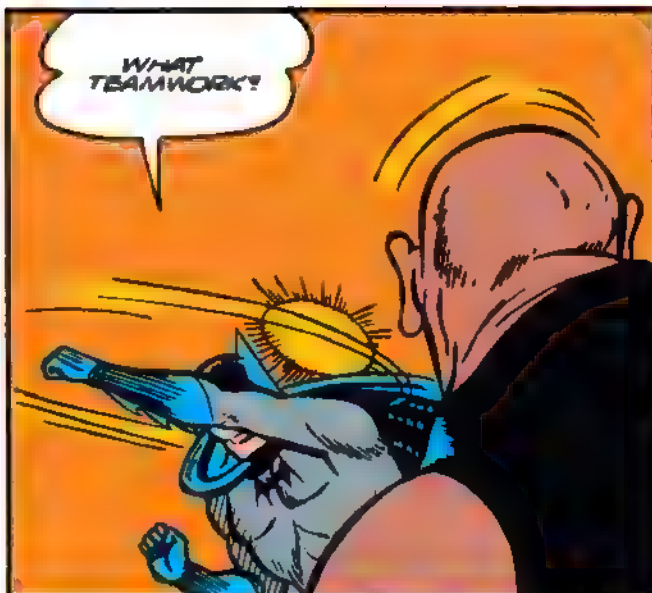
OHH--
HERE
COMES
THE OTHER
SHRIMP!



ROBIN TILTS THE CRYSTAL SO THAT IT CATCHES THE LIGHT, AND FLASHES RAYS OF BLINDING RADIANCE AT THE GIANT'S EYES!



WHAT TEAMWORK?



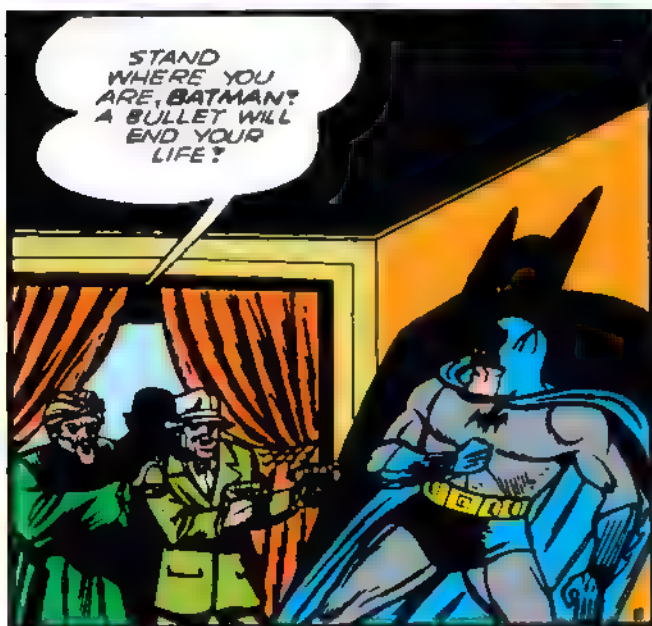
FOR A MOMENT, THE GIANT SWAYS ON HIS FEET, AND THEN CRASHES TO THE FLOOR--AS THE OTHER GIANT RUSHES IN--



THE BIGGER THEY ARE, THE HARDER THEY FALL!



STAND WHERE YOU ARE, BATMAN? A BULLET WILL END YOUR LIFE!



GUNFIRE BLASTS THROUGH THE ROOM! A MAN TOPPLES-- BUT NOT THE BATMAN--



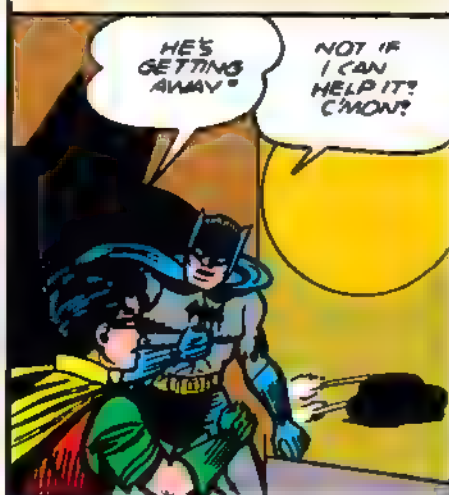
MISS PAGE, ROBIN? BATMAN-- I FIGURED YOU'D FIX GRANDA SOME WAY. WELL, GRANDA-- WE'VE GOT YOU THIS TIME?



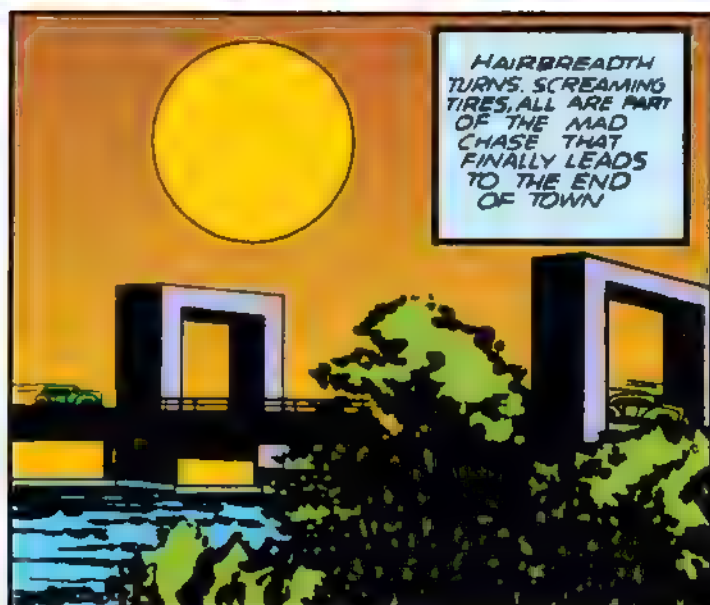
LIKE A CORNERED RAT GRANDA MAKES A DESPERATE TRY FOR ESCAPE



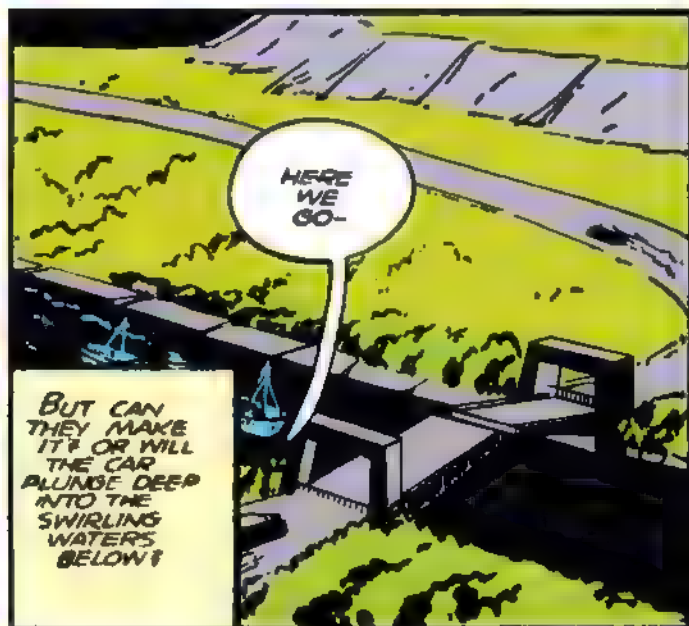
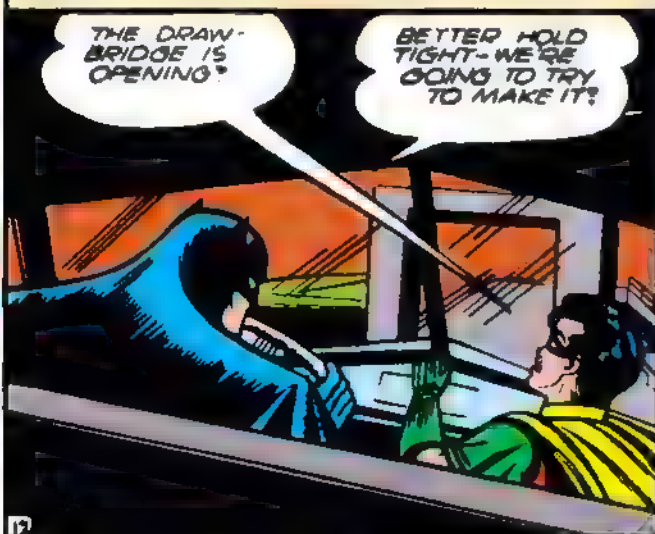
A CLASH OF GEARS --- AND GRANDA SPEEDS AWAY AS TWO FIGURES FOLLOW HIS PATH OF FLIGHT!

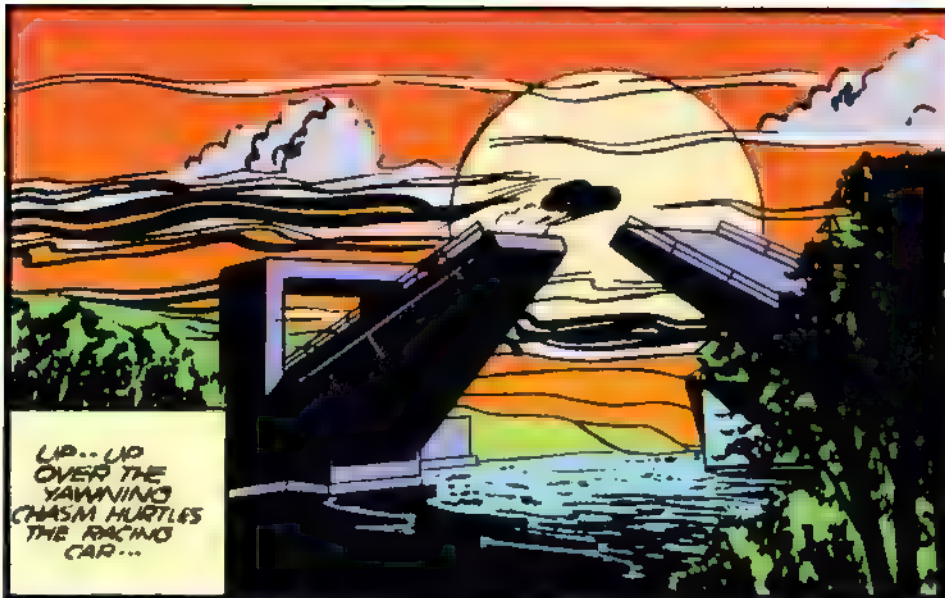


WITH THE BATMAN AT THE WHEEL, THE POLICE CAR WHIPS AWAY AFTER GRANDA!

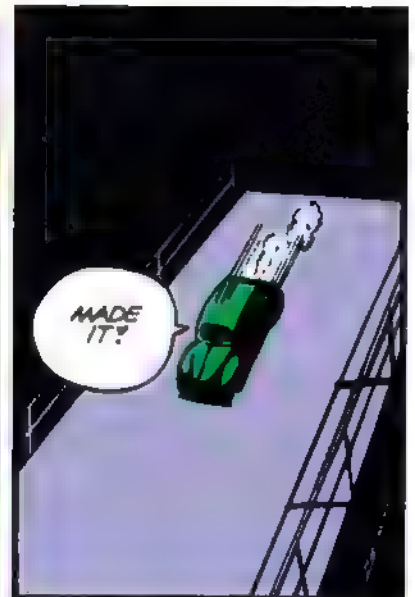


AS THE BATMAN'S CAR APPROACHES, A DRAWBRIDGE STARTS TO OPEN TO LET A HIGH-STACKED STEAMER PASS BELOW!



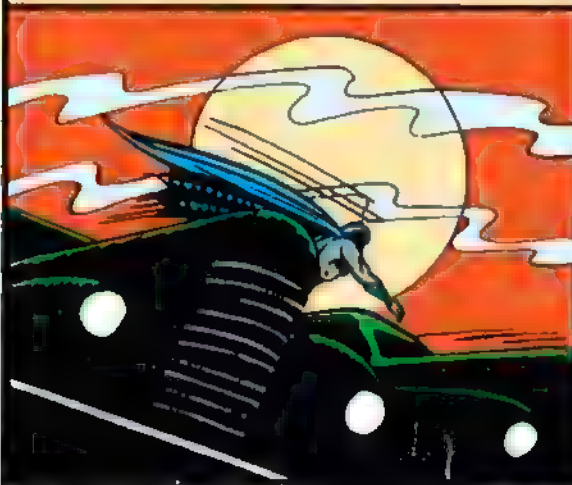


UP...UP
OVER THE
YAWNING
CHASM HURTLIES
THE RACING
CAR...



MADE
IT?

AS THEY DRAW ALONGSIDE GRANDA'S
FLASHING AUTOMOBILE, THE BATMAN
LEAPS---



THROUGH THE OPEN
WINDOW STREAKS THE
BATMAN'S BALLED FIST?



LATER...

HERE'S
GRANDA?
I SEE YOU
FOUND
THE BOYS
WHERE I
LEFT THEM?

YES--
AND
THEY'VE
BEEN
TALKING!
THIS
ENDS
GRANDA'S
BLACK MAILING.



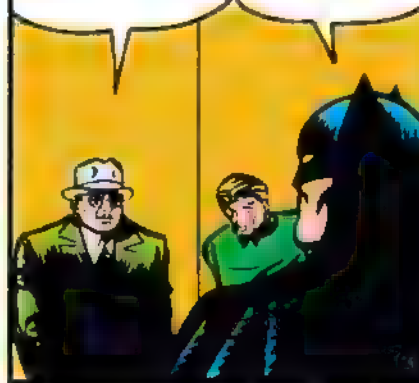
HYPNOTIZING
PEOPLE AND THEN
GETTING RECORDINGS
OF THEIR INNERMOST
SECRETS. THIS IS
THE ROOM
WHERE HE
HID HIS RECORDS?

NICE
WORK,
GORDON!



GRANDA'S MEN
CONFESSED TO
THE MURDER
OF HENRY ABBOT?
ABBOT WAS
GOING TO
TELL THE
POLICE
ABOUT THE
BLACKMAIL?

GRANDA
KILLED
HIM TO
PROTECT
HIMSELF--
GRANDA,
YOU'RE GET-
TING THE
CHAIR FOR THIS?



THE
POLICE
DEPARTMENT.
THE PEOPLE
OF THE
CITY
THANK YOU
AND ROBIN
FOR THE
SWELL JOB
YOU DID?

SEE
WHAT I
MEAN BY
DOING YOUR
HOMEWORK
AND GAINING
THE RESPECT
OF YOUR
FELLOWMAN?

OKAY--
OKAY
YOU
WIN?

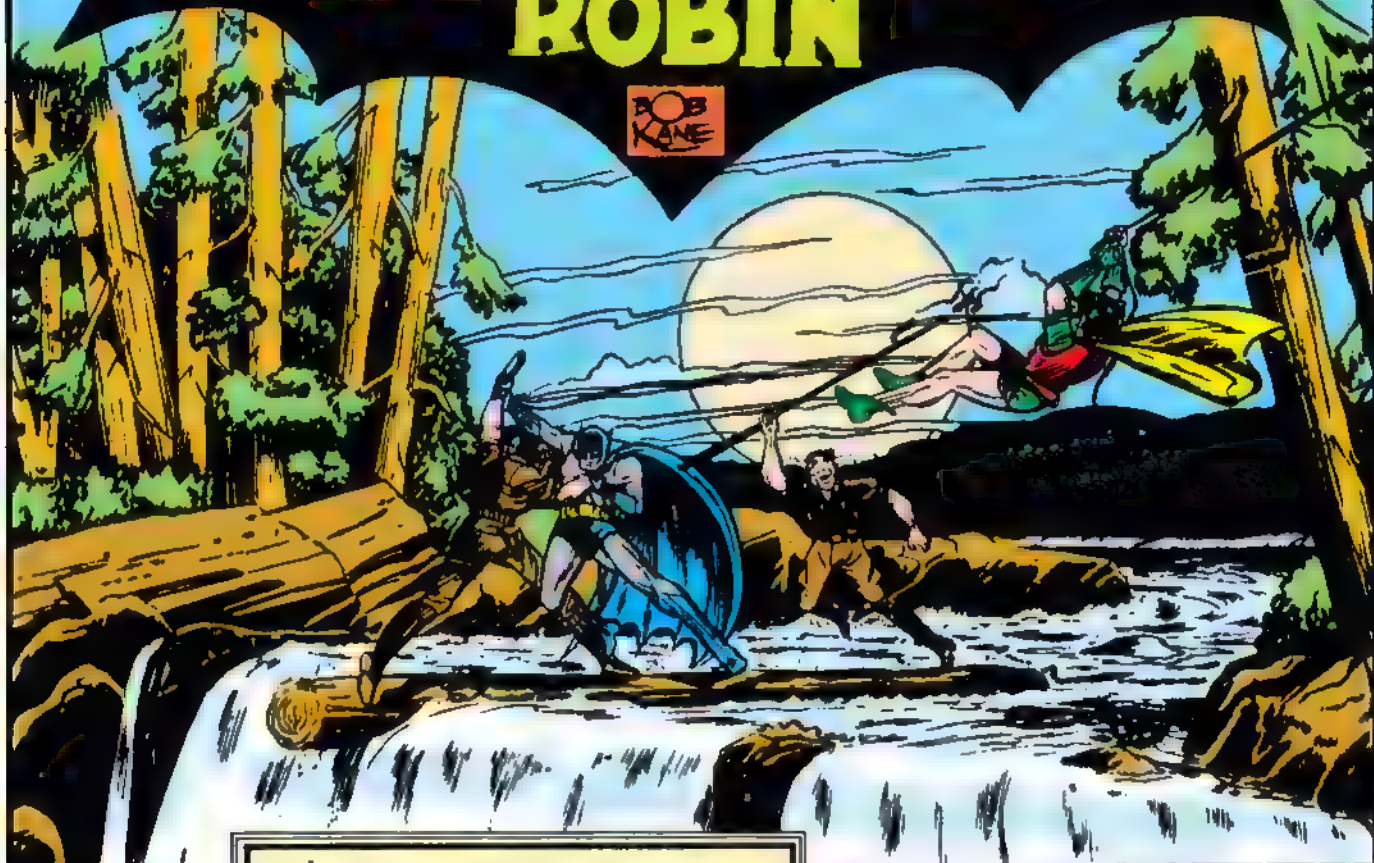


the
END

BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN

BOB
KANE

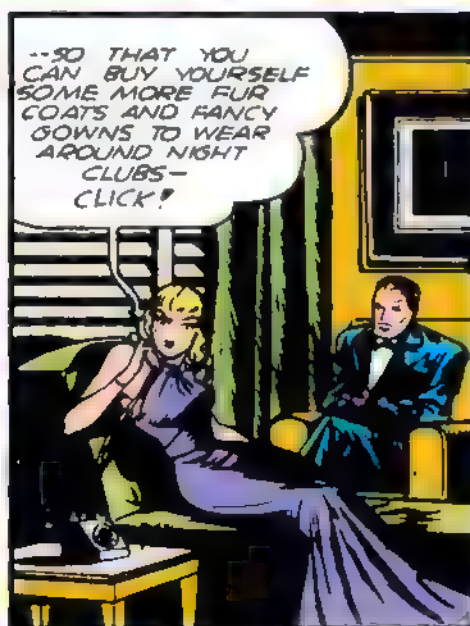
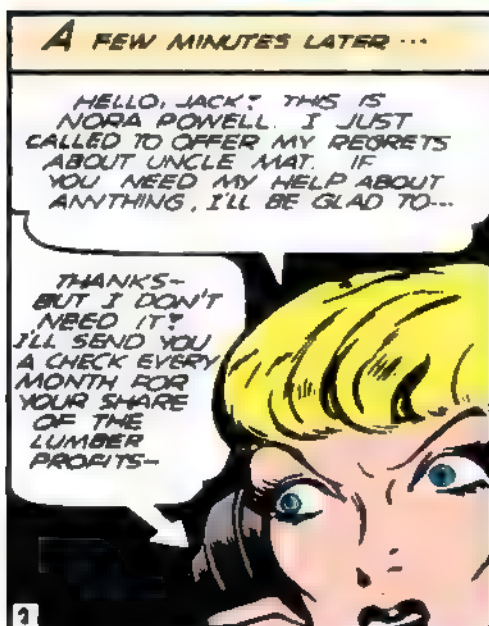
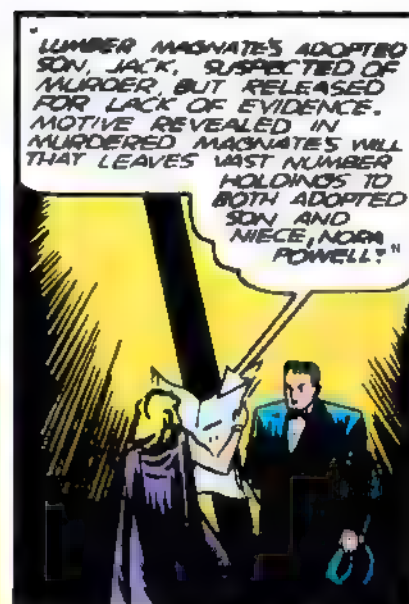
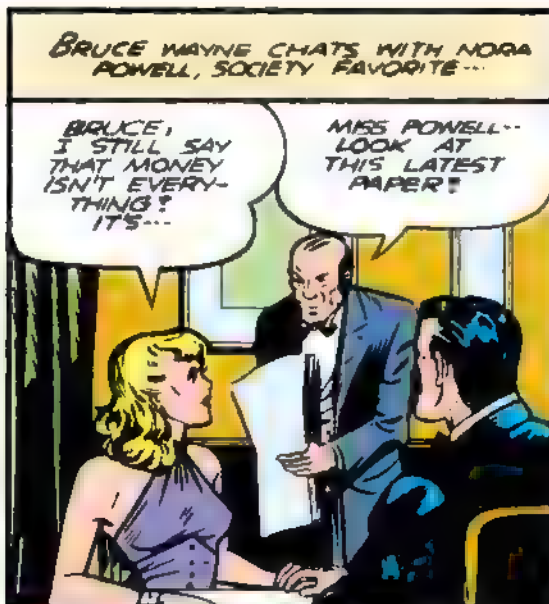


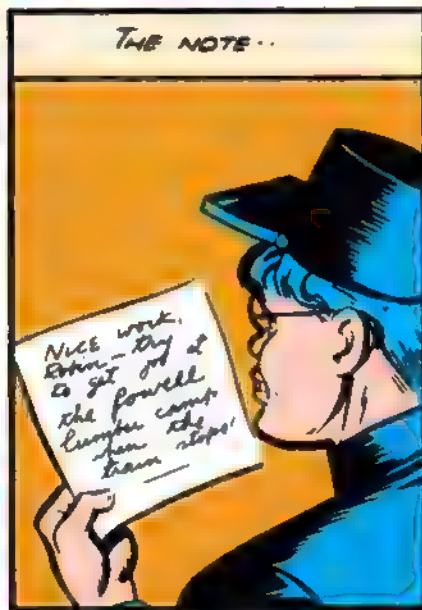
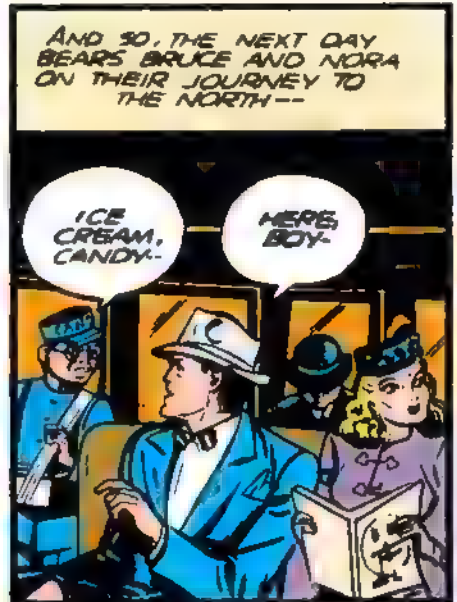
LIKE GIANTS OF OLD, THE BIG TREES OF THE NORTH WOODS REAR UP...UP INTO THE SKY UNTIL THEIR LEAFY BRANCHES SEEM TO TOUCH THE HEAVENS. HERE, AMIDST THESE TOWERING COLOSSI, ARE TO BE FOUND THE LUMBER CAMPS--SMALL COLONIES OF MEN WHOSE SHINY AXES AND MANY SAWS BITE MORTALLY AT THESE SOARING WOODEN COLUMNS, TOPPLING THEM TO THE GROUND, WHERE EACH OF THE MIGHTY CRASHES HEAVILY, SHAKING THE EARTH ABOUT IT. HERE-- HERE TO THE LAND OF WOODEN GIANTS COME THE BATMAN AND ROBIN TO FIND ADVENTURE AND THE STRANGE ANSWER TO--

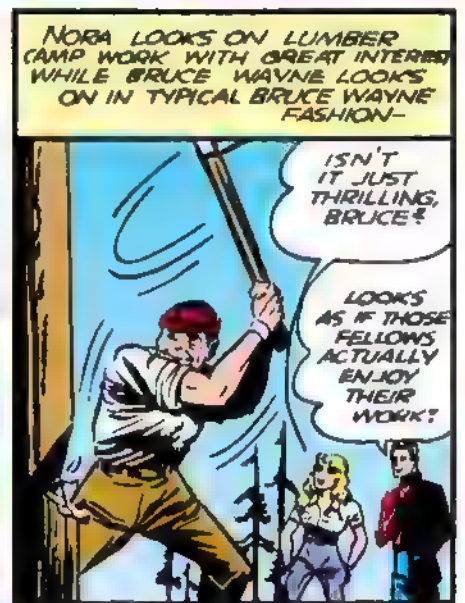
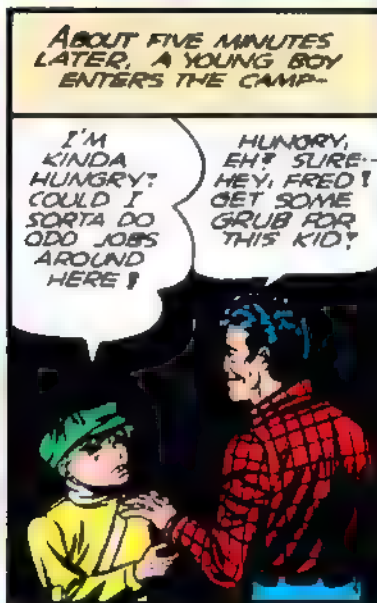
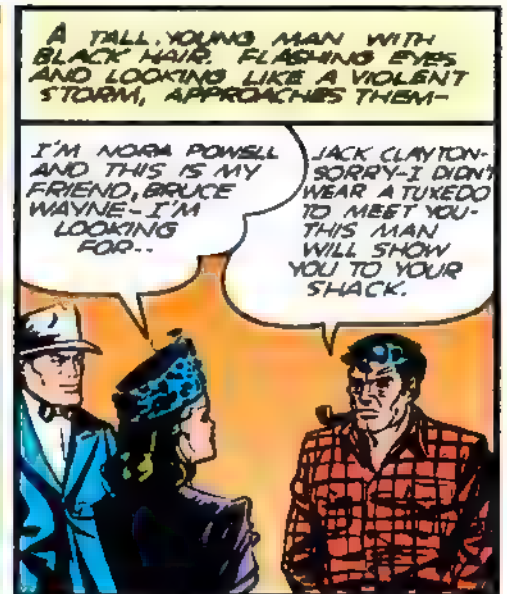
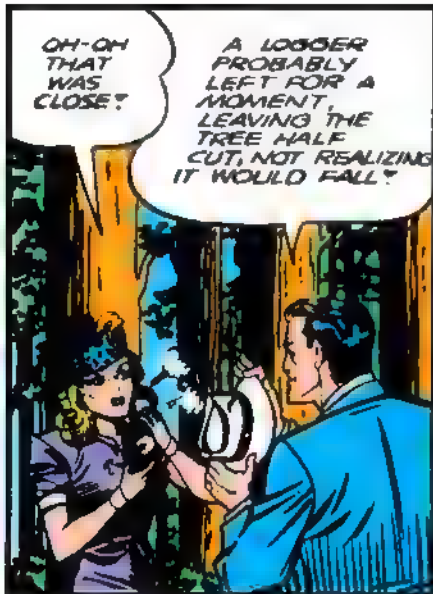
"The NORTH WOODS MYSTERY."

THE MOON -- A GIANT WHITE EYE--LOOKS DOWN ON THE NORTHWOODS--AND MURDER?









SILENTLY AND SWIFTLY, HE PADS SOFTLY ACROSS THE CAMP GROUNDS TO BE MET BY ANOTHER COSTUMED ROVER--ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER--

C'MON, ROBIN-- I WANT TO LOOK AROUND?

NO--WAIT? I SAW TWO FIGURES MOVE INTO THE TOOL SHED--



INSIDE THE TOOL SHED--

A LITTLE ACID ON THESE SAWS AND AXES, AND THEY'LL CRACK UP WHEN THEY TRY TO USE THEM ON TIMBER?

THAT'LL SLOW UP THE LUMBER OUTPUT-- AND THAT POWELL DAME WILL BE GLAD TO SELL HER SHARE TO CLAYTON--

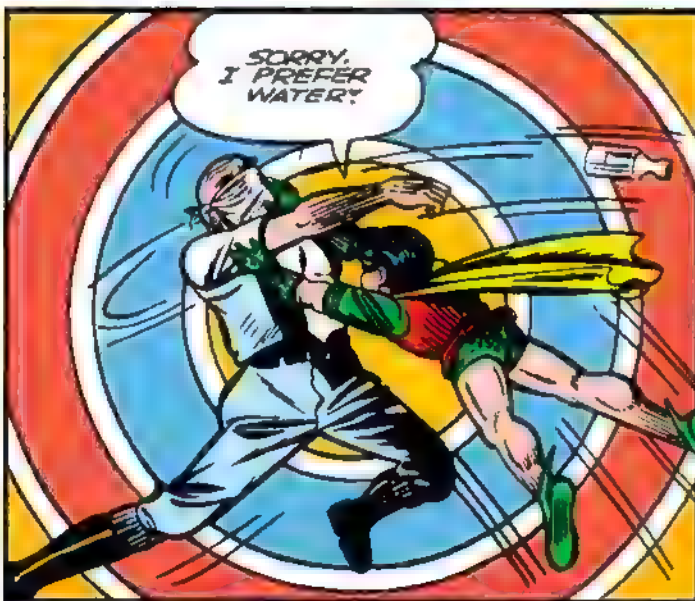


NOT QUITE, FELLA, NOT QUITE?

I'LL BATHE YA IN ACID?



SORRY, I PREFER WATER?



OKAY, WISE GUY-- YOU ASKED FOR IT?



BUT IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE I'M GOING TO GET IT, EH, PAL?



BATMAN, I NEED HELP?





AND YOU'RE GETTING IT!

TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE MELEE, THE OTHER MAKES GOOD HIS ESCAPE!

HE'S GETTING AWAY!

NEVER MIND! WE'VE STILL GOT HIS PAL TO ANSWER A FEW QUESTIONS!



EAGER TO DODGE FURTHER PUNISHMENT, THE REMAINING WRECKER CRINGES BACK BEFORE THE BATMAN, AND IN HIS PANIC, STUMBLES AGAINST A BEAM! A HEAVY HOOK IS LOOSED FROM ITS RACK AND...

FEEL LIKE TALKING, OR...

NO... NO... I'LL TALK..



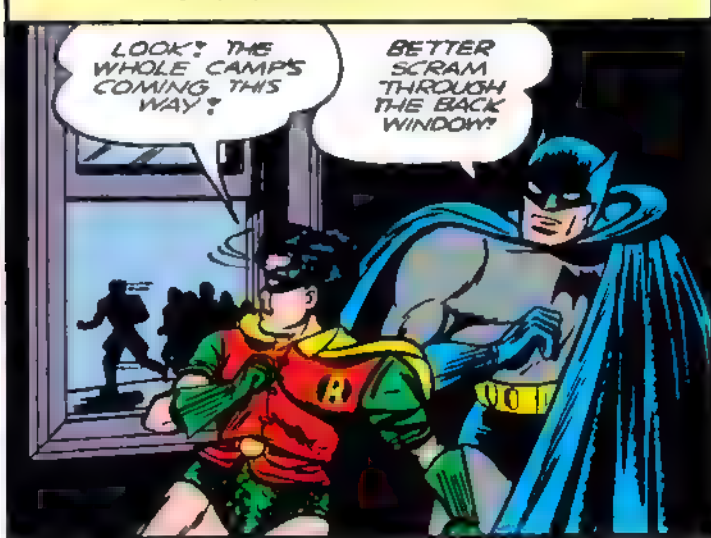
...AND PLUNGING DOWNWARD, SILENCES HIM FOREVER---



GNNGH?

LOOK OUT!

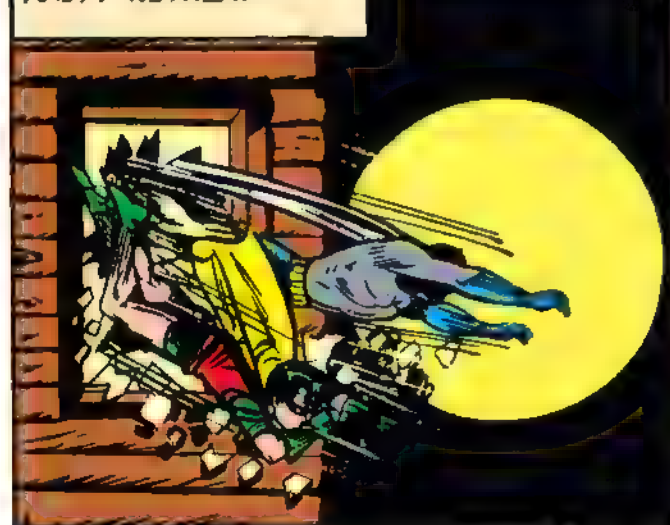
DRAWN TO THE SCENE BY THE DIN OF BATTLE---



LOOK! THE WHOLE CAMP'S COMING THIS WAY!

BETTER SCRAM THROUGH THE BACK WINDOW!

THE TWO-MAN REGIMENT BEAT HASTY RETREAT---

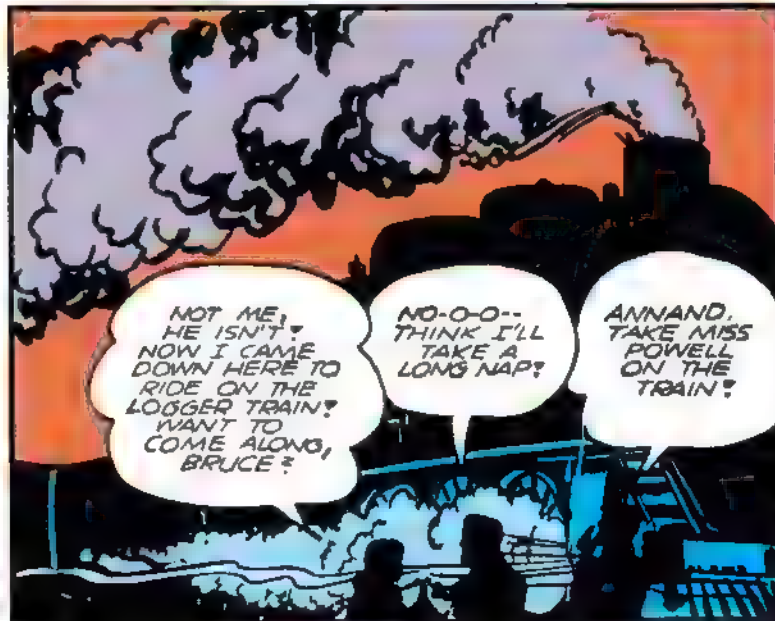
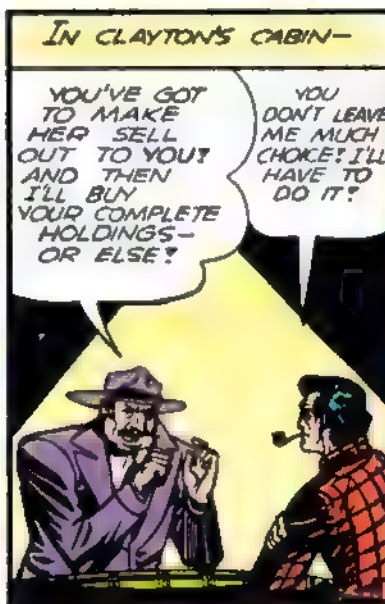
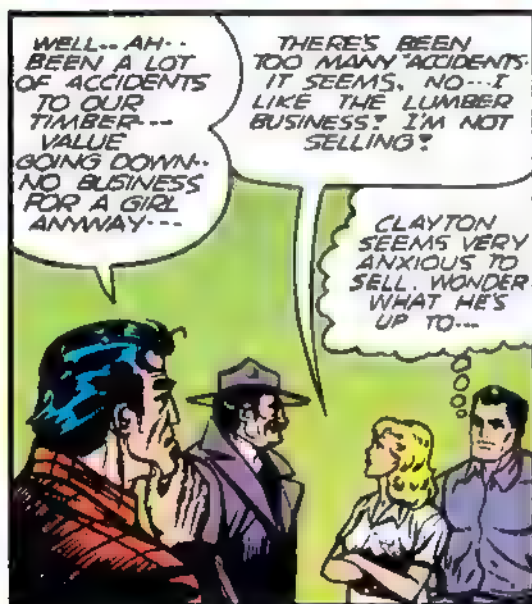
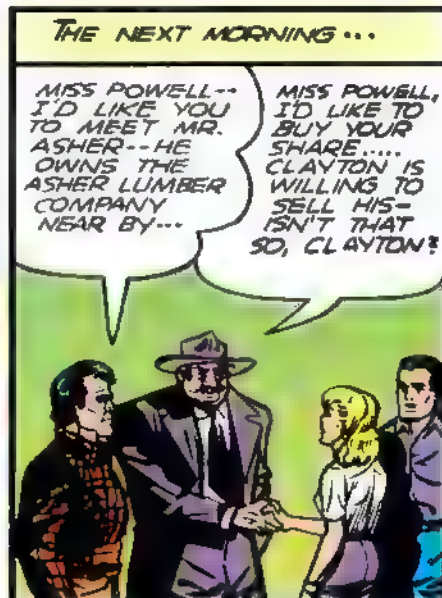
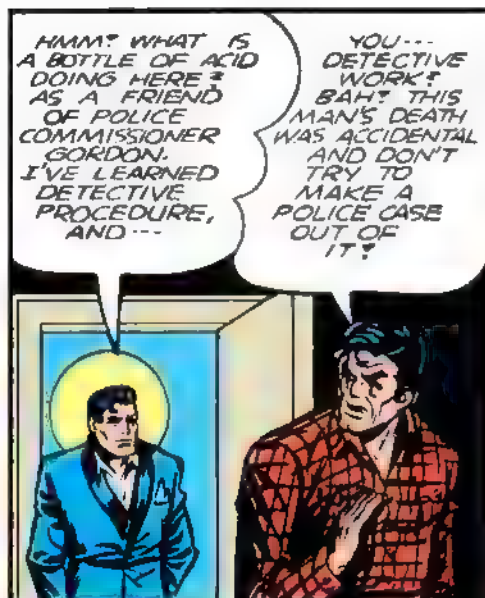


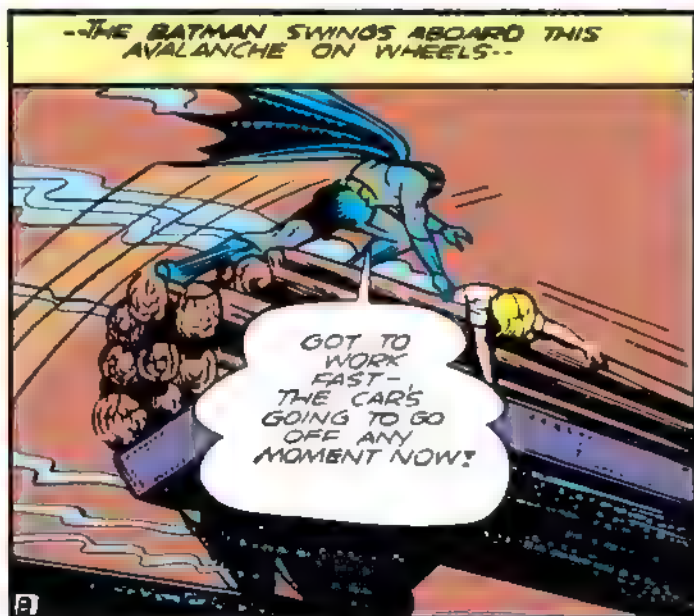
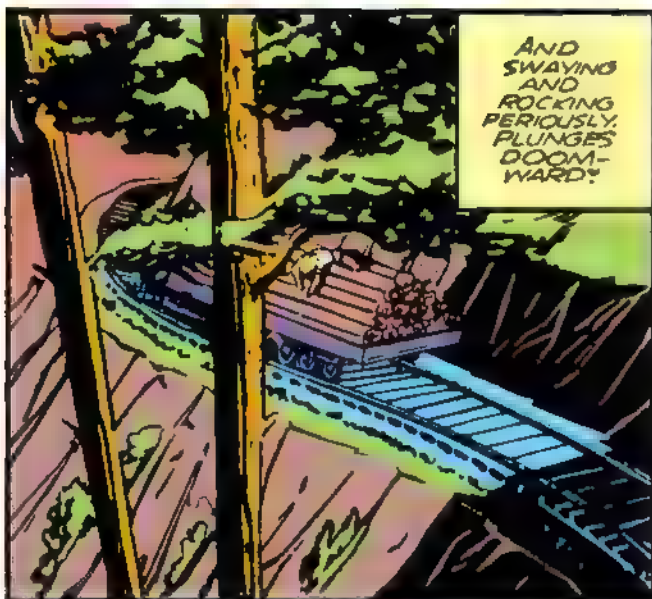
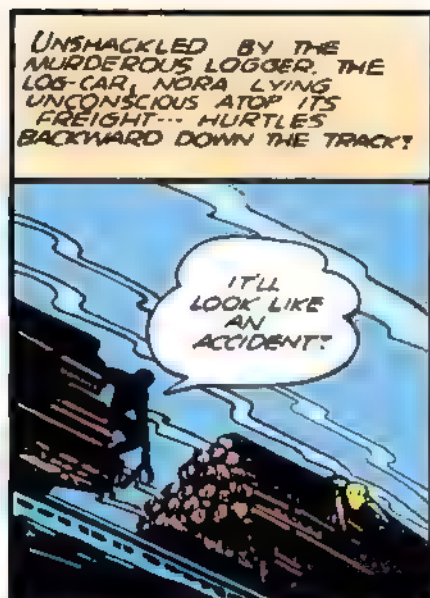
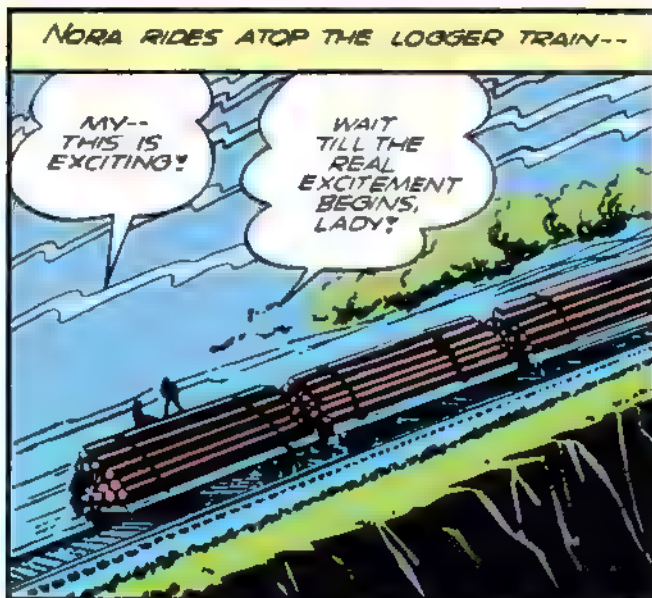
WHY, IT'S WOODY JOE!

THAT HOOK.. MUST HAVE KILLED HIM INSTANTLY!

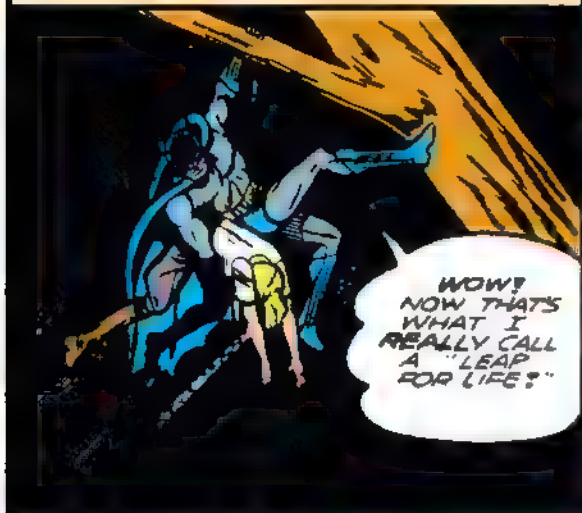
HOW TERRIBLE.. WHAT WAS HE DOING HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF NIGHT?





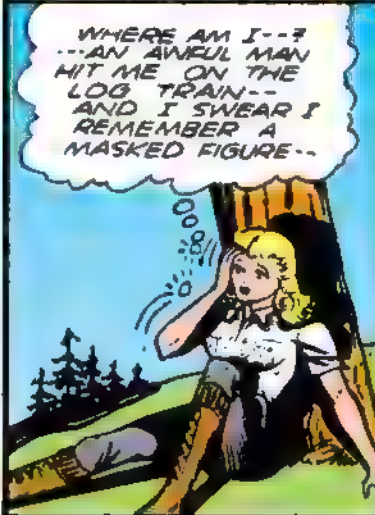


--AND GRABS AN OVERHANGING
BRANCH WITH THE OTHER----



WOW!
NOW THAT'S
WHAT I
REALLY CALL
A "LEAP
FOR LIFE!"

LATER ---WHEN NORA
COMES BACK TO LIFE--

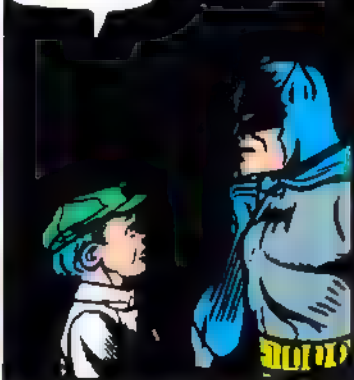


WHERE AM I--?
...AN AWFUL MAN
HIT ME ON THE
LOG TRAIN--
AND I SWEAR I
REMEMBER A
MASKED FIGURE--

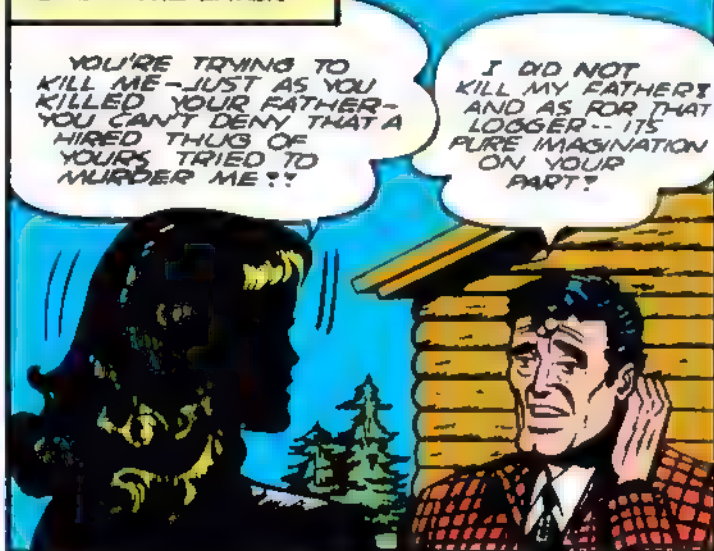
AT THAT MOMENT---

--AND
I HEARD
ASHER
TELL
CLAYTON
TO SELL--

MMM SO
I WAS RIGHT!
AND
YET--



SOME TIME LATER--



YOU'RE TRYING TO
KILL ME--JUST AS YOU
KILLED YOUR FATHER--
YOU CAN'T DENY THAT A
HIRED THUG OF
YOURS TRIED TO
MURDER ME?!

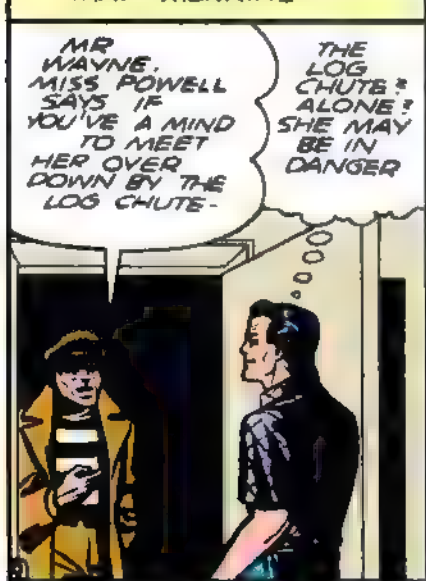
I DID NOT
KILL MY FATHER!
AND AS FOR THAT
LOGGER-- ITS
PURE IMAGINATION
ON YOUR
PART?

AFTER NORA
LEAVES--



I'M DEEP ENOUGH
AS IT IS ALREADY--
BUT TO MURDER
A GIRL... AND
MY FATHER'S
DEATH----
I WONDER
NOW IF--

THAT MORNING---



MR
WAYNE,
MISS POWELL
SAYS IF
YOU'VE A MIND
TO MEET
HER OVER
DOWN BY THE
LOG CHUTE--

THE
LOG
CHUTE?
ALONE?
SHE MAY
BE IN
DANGER



AND BRUCE'S FEARS
ARE NO IDLE ONES--
AT THAT VERY
MOMENT--

A MURDERER'S HANDS ARE AT THEIR TERRIBLE TASK!



HELP!
MY ARM!
OH, MY
ARM--
IT'S
BROKEN!



DESPERATELY--
FIGHTING FOR HER
LIFE --NORA RIDES
THE TIDE OF LEAPING
LOGS, WHICH BOUND
DOWN THE CHUTE
LIKE TON-WEIGHT,
WOODEN
KANGAROOS--

BUT IN THAT
HIDEOUSLY
REAL, NIGHTMARE
INSTANT--

TIME FOR
ME TO SHOW
MY TRUE
COLORS--

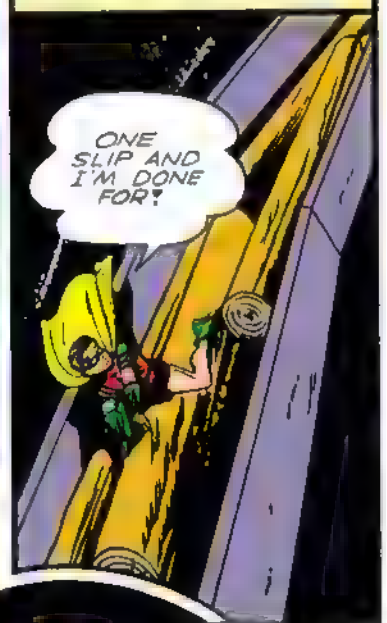


THE CAMP
BOY BECOMES
DICK GRAYSON, WARD
OF BRUCE WAYNE--



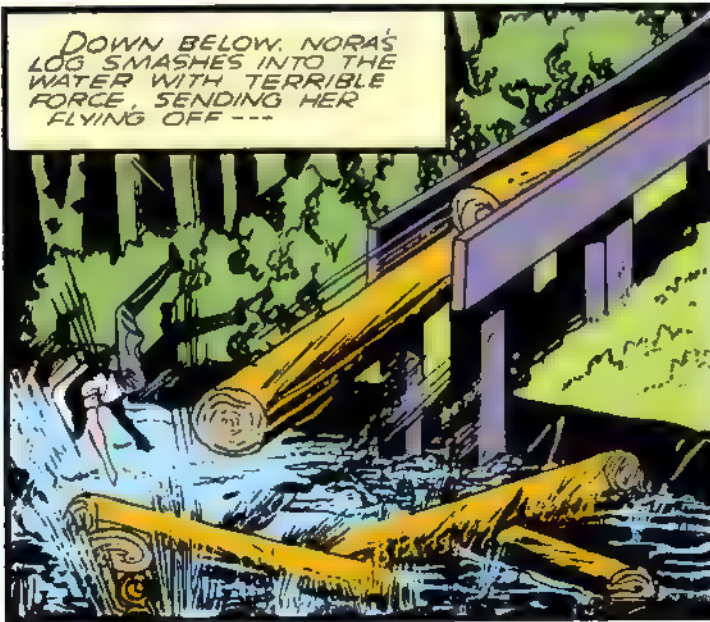
AND THEN IN
ANOTHER INSTANT
BECOMES ROBIN,
THE BOY WONDER--
A MIGHTY SPRING
SENDS THE BOY
ONTO THE
DANGEROUS CHUTE--

LIKE A COWBOY ON
HORSEBACK, ROBIN
RIDES HIS BUCKING,
WOODEN BRONCO--

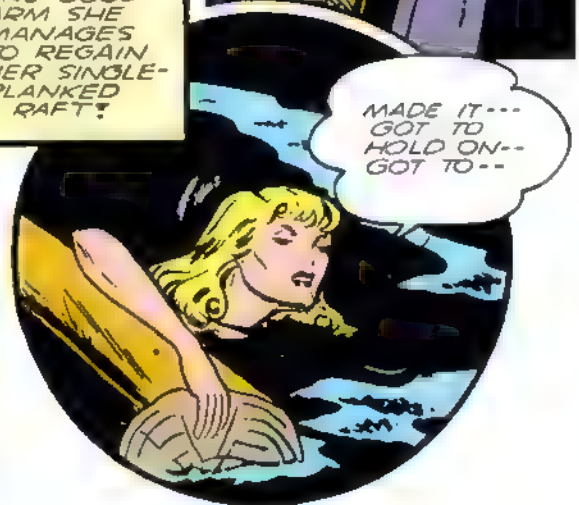


ONE
SLIP AND
I'M DONE
FOR!

DOWN BELOW, NORA'S
LOG SMASHES INTO THE
WATER WITH TERRIBLE
FORCE, SENDING HER
FLYING OFF ---



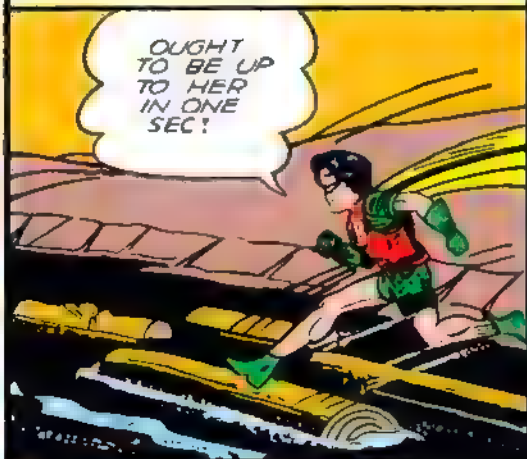
-- BUT
WITH HER
ONE GOOD
ARM SHE
MANAGES
TO REGAIN
HER SINGLE-
PLANKED
RAFT!



MADE IT---
GOT TO
HOLD ON--
GOT TO--

ROBIN SPIES HER AND QUICKLY
BOUNDS ACROSS THE SWAYING,
ROLLING LOGS AS THEY RIDE
DOWN THE SWIFT-MOVING
RIVER---

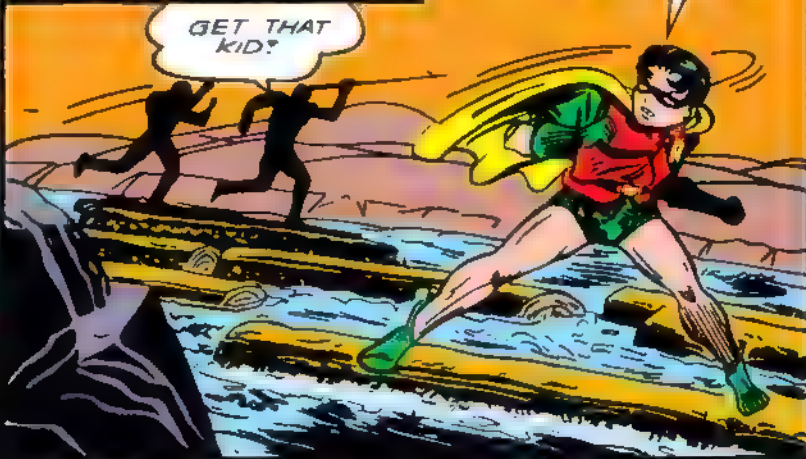
OUGHT
TO BE UP
TO HER
IN ONE
SEC?



BUT HE IS ALSO SPIED BY
ENEMY LOGGERS, WHO DART
AFTER HIM IN SWIFT
PURSUIT?

GET THAT
KID?

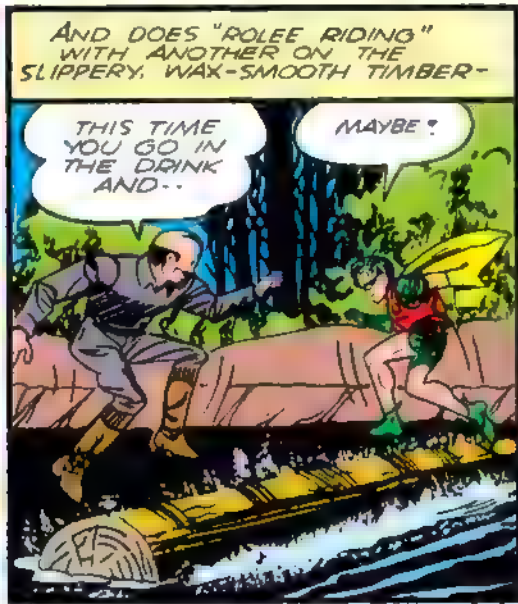
OH-OH!
TROUBLE
AGAIN!



AND DOES "ROLEE RIDING"
WITH ANOTHER ON THE
SLIPPERY, WAX-SMOOTH TIMBER--

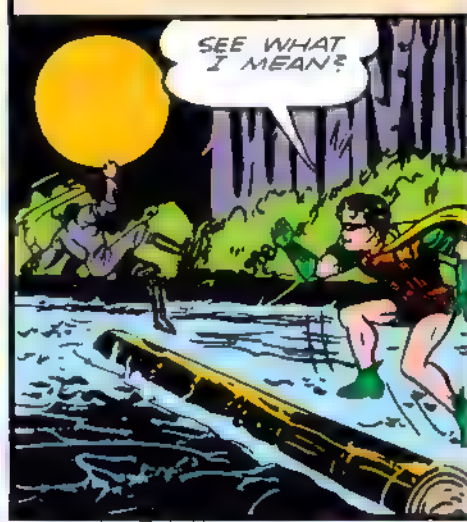
THIS TIME
YOU GO IN
THE DRINK
AND--

MAYBE?

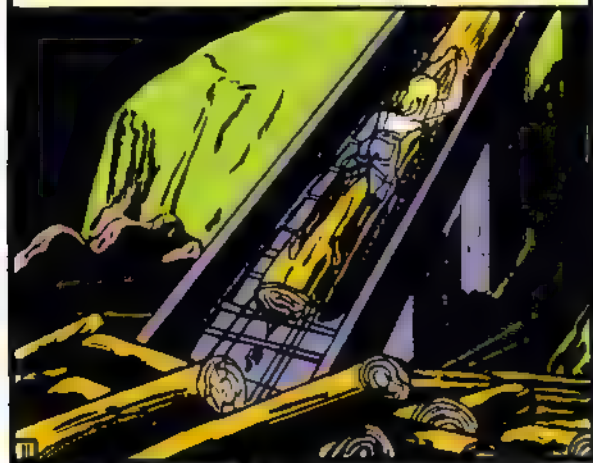


A CLEVER BIT OF FOOT WORK
DISPOSES OF HIS SECOND
OPPONENT?

SEE WHAT
I MEAN?



MEANWHILE, THE PAIN OF HER
BROKEN ARM PROVES TOO MUCH
FOR NORA! SHE FAINTS DEAD AWAY
AS THE LOG IS DRAWN UP INTO THE
CONVEYER THAT LEADS TO THE
SAWMILL!



BUT ROBIN'S LOG IS CLEVERLY
MANEUVERED BY THE THIRD
LOGGER, SO THAT IT CLEARS
THE LOG JAM -- AND RIDES
ON DOWN THE RACING WATERS.

HAW! HAW!
SO LONG,
KID!



..ON---ON---THE LOG RIDES --- UNTIL IT TEETERS ON THE VERY EDGE OF THE HIGH FALLS, HEADING FOR THE PLUNGE INTO THE WATERS, CHURNING AND LASHING SO FAR BELOW?

A WATERFALL? -AND I'M GOING OVER?

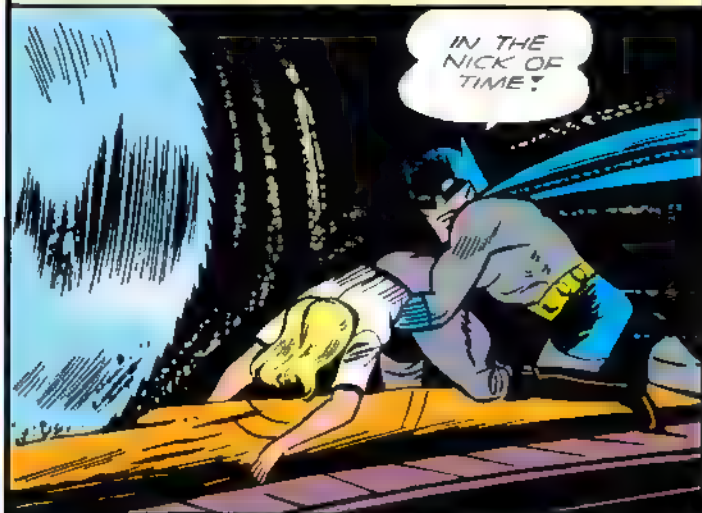
BUT IN THAT SPLIT-SECOND INSTANT, A CLOAKED FIGURE SWEEPS OUT OVER THE FALLS, DANGLED BY A PRECIOUS STRAND OF SILKEN ROPE, ONE STRONG HAND SNATCHES ROBIN FROM THE VERY BRINK OF DEATH!

DROP THAT KNIFE!

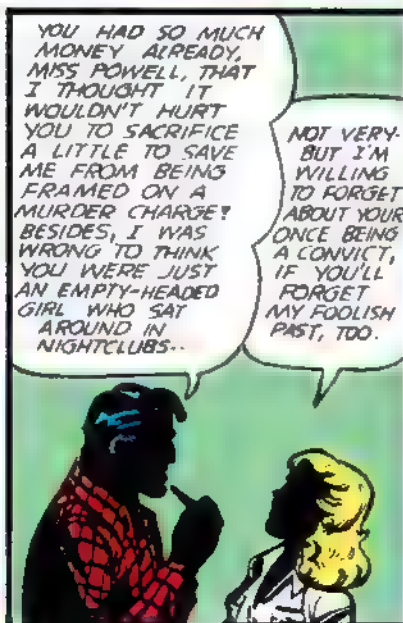
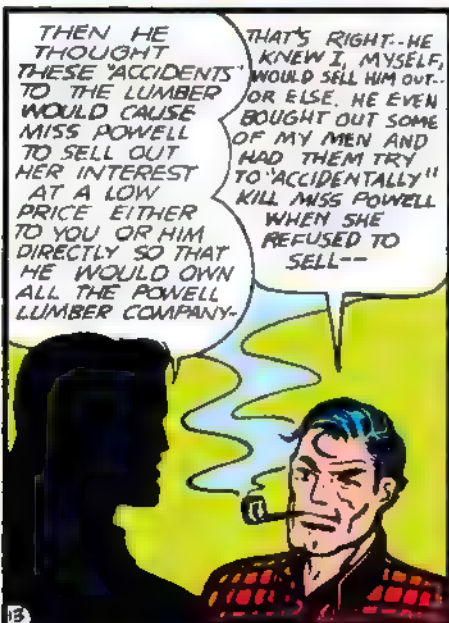
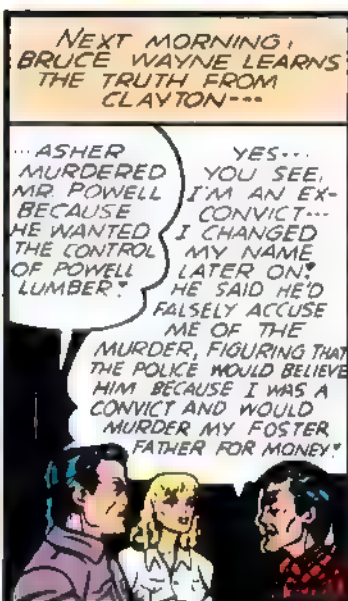
⑥ MEANWHILE, THE CONVEYER CARRIES THE UNCONSCIOUS NORA INTO THE SAWMILL ITSELF -- TOWARD A HUGE BUZZSAW WHOSE JAGGED EDGES HUM A SONG OF DEATH!?

⑦ CLOSER. CLOSER.

BUT STRONG HANDS REACH OUT---AND
SNATCH HER FROM DANGER---



BUT A STRONG, STEADY VOICE
BEHIND ASHER CAUSES HIM TO
SWIVEL ABOUT---



BATMAN

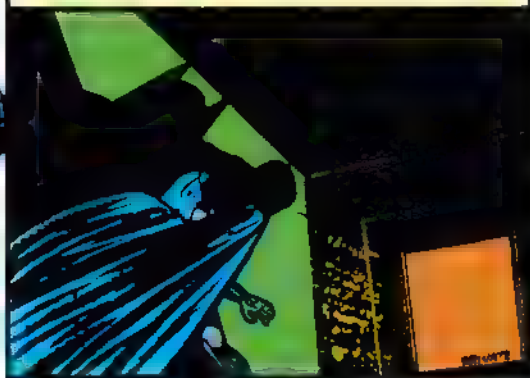
WITH
ROBIN

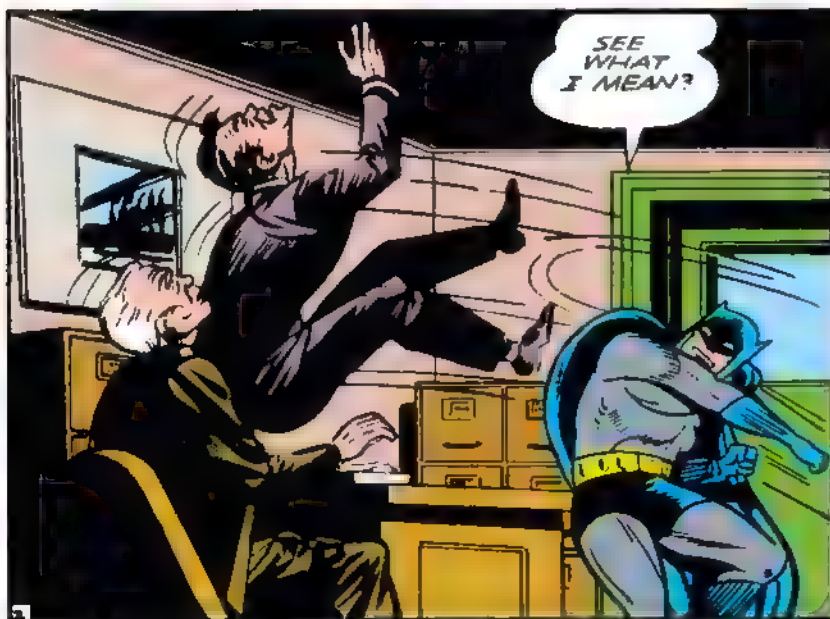
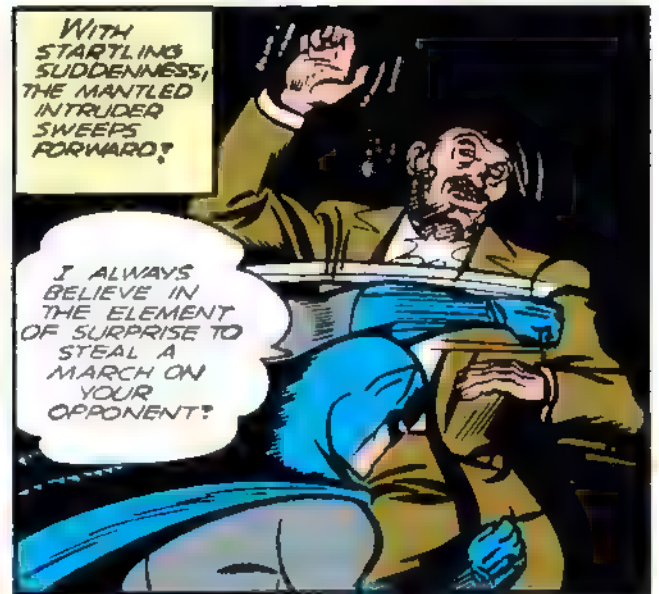
COUNTLESS TIMES IN THE PAST HAD THE BATMAN RESCUED INNOCENT HUMANS FROM DEATH OR IMPRISONMENT BY UNEARTHING TRUE EVIDENCE THAT TRAPPED THE REAL CRIMINAL. BUT WHO IS THERE TO SAVE THE BATMAN HIMSELF FROM SUCH A PREDICAMENT? FOR NOW, THE BATMAN FACES HIS SUPREME TEST OF HIS CAREER: HELPLESS, BOUND IN A CHAIN OF EVIDENCE, HE MUST SOMEHOW ENTANGLE THE REAL CRIMINAL IN LINKS OF HIS OWN MAKING? HOW HE DOES SO WITH THE CRIMINAL AID OF ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER, MAKES AN ABSORBING STORY. WHEN WE READ OF "THE PEOPLE VS. THE BATMAN."

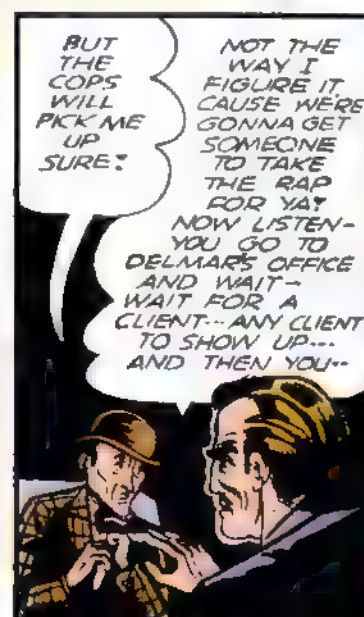
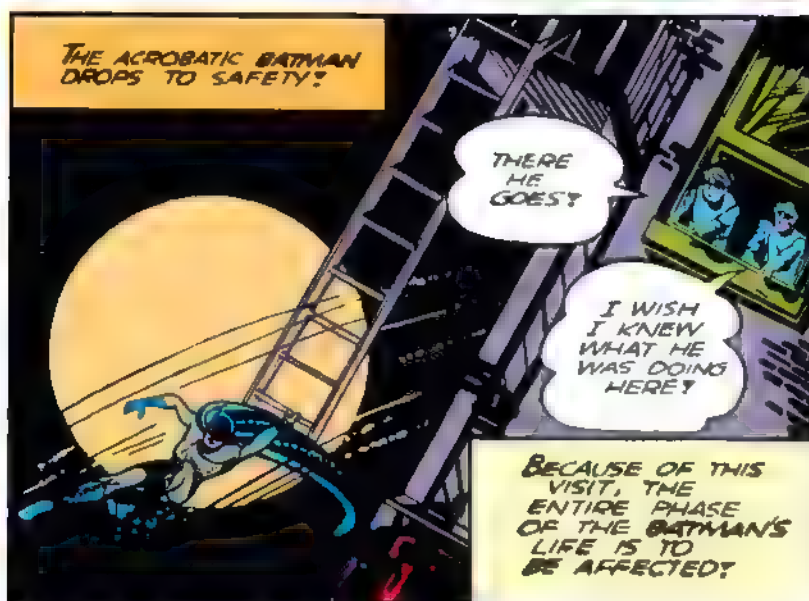
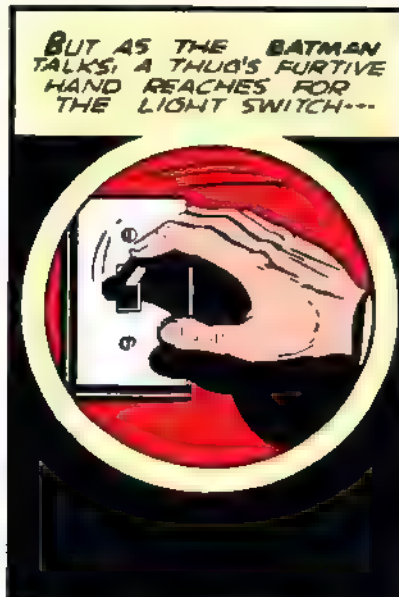
BOB
KANE



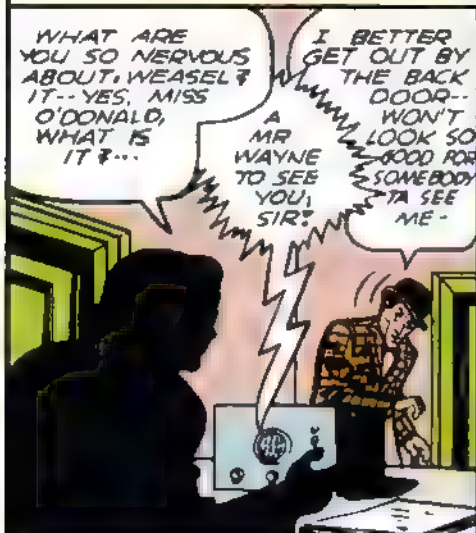
A CLOAKED FIGURE PADS SILENTLY THRU A DARK CORRIDOR. AHEAD, A PATCH OF LIGHT DRAWS THE MYSTERIOUS FIGURE LIKE A FLAME DRAWS A MOTH--



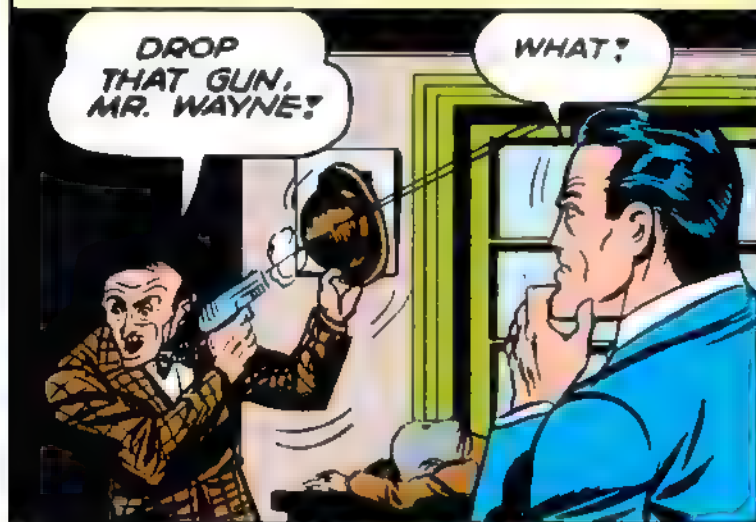




THE NEXT MORNING---



WITH A CRY, WEASEL HOLDS THE GUN UP AND FIRES A SHOT THROUGH HIS OWN HAT?



THEN THE MURDERER TOSSES THE SMOKING GUN TO BRUCE--

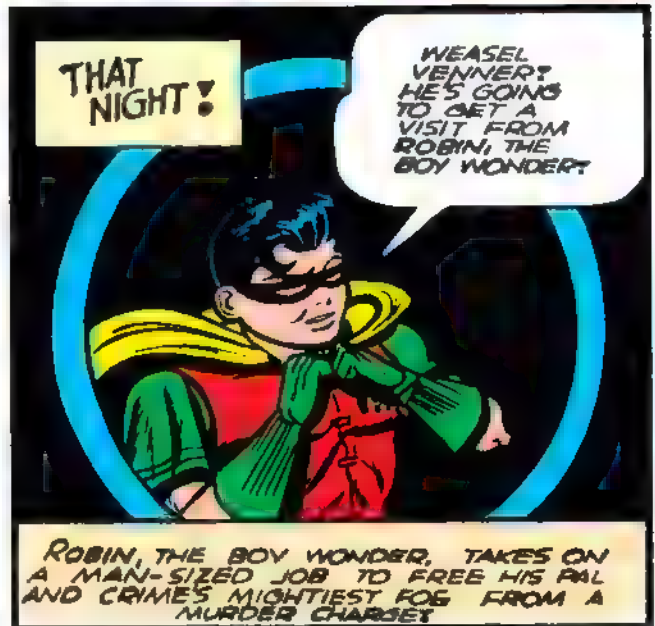
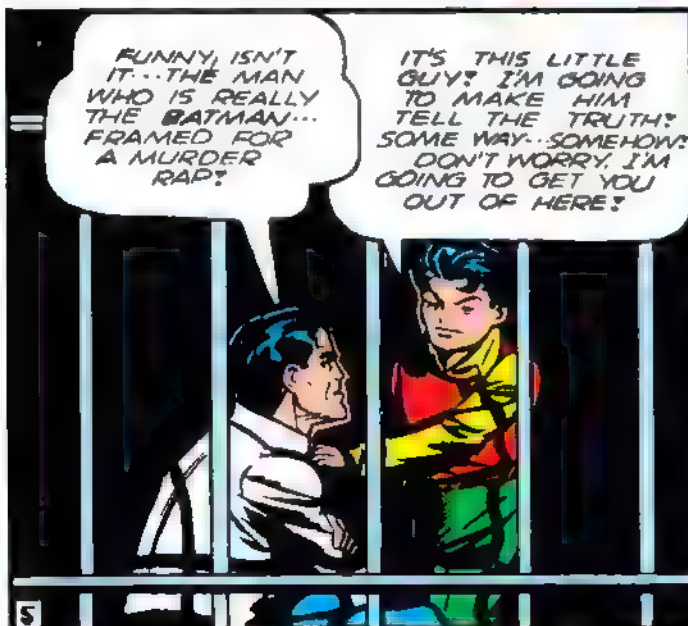
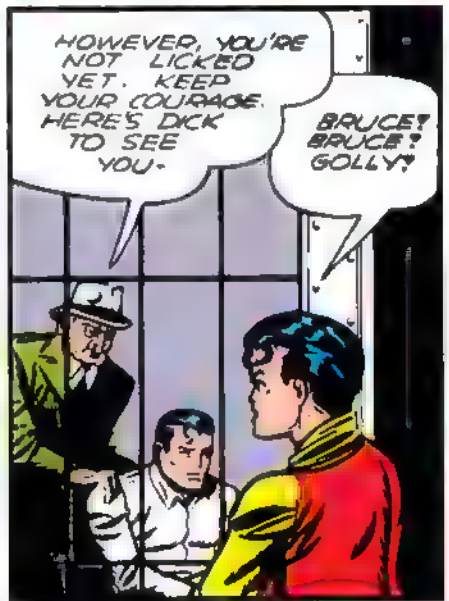
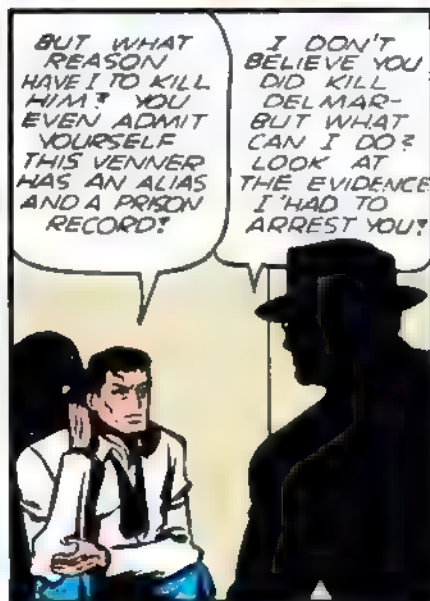
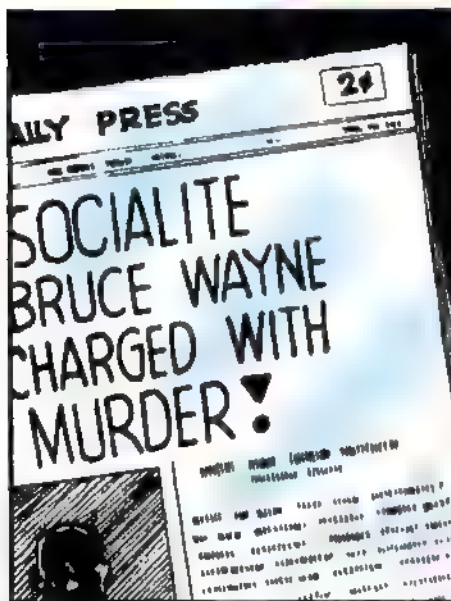
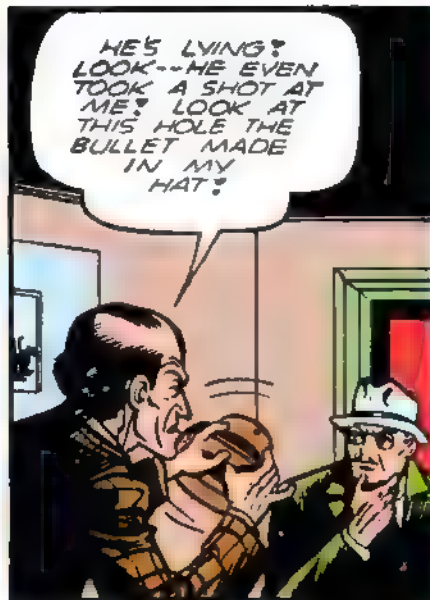
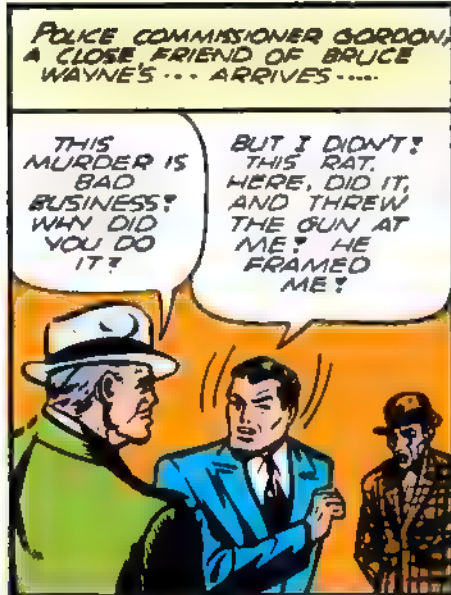


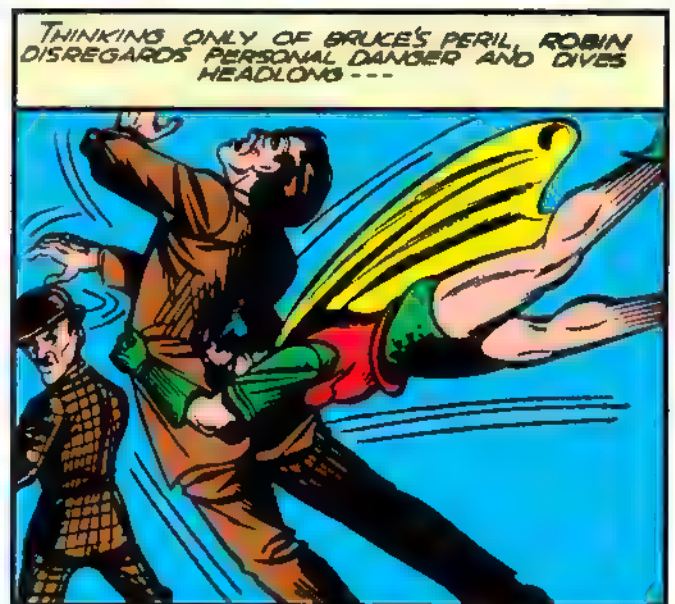
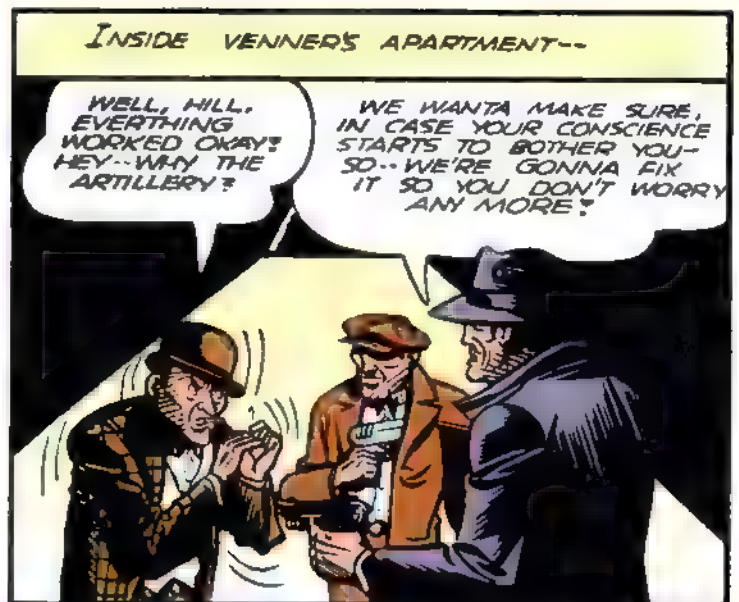
INSTINCTIVELY, BRUCE CATCHES THE WEAPON, AS ALL PERSONS WILL DO WHEN OBJECTS ARE TOSSED AT THEM?



AND WHEN THE POLICE ARRIVE ON THE RUN---



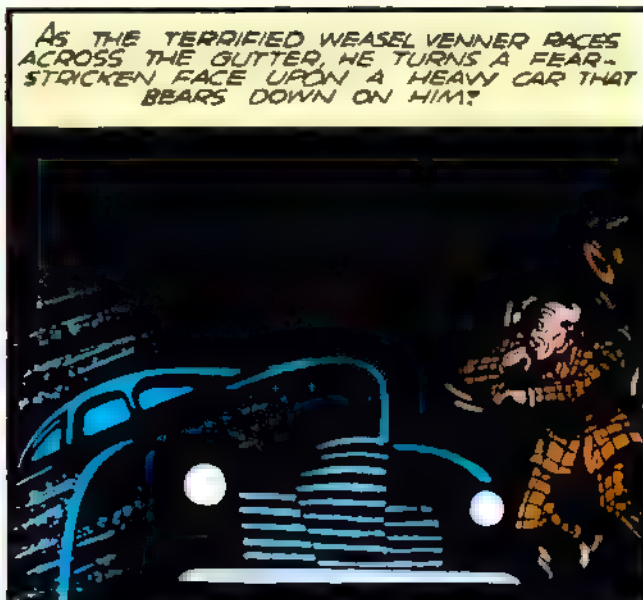




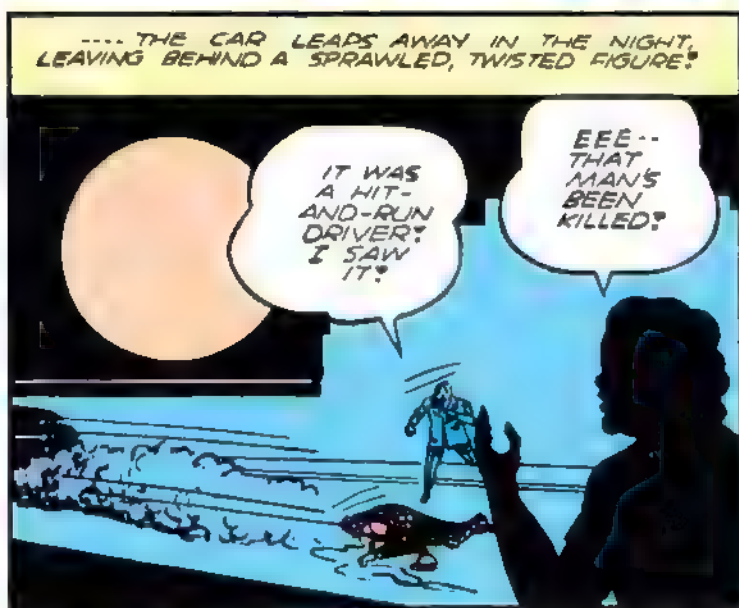


THERE HE GOES! I'LL--

PUT THAT ROD AWAY! I GOT A BETTER IDEA! GET IN THAT CAR!



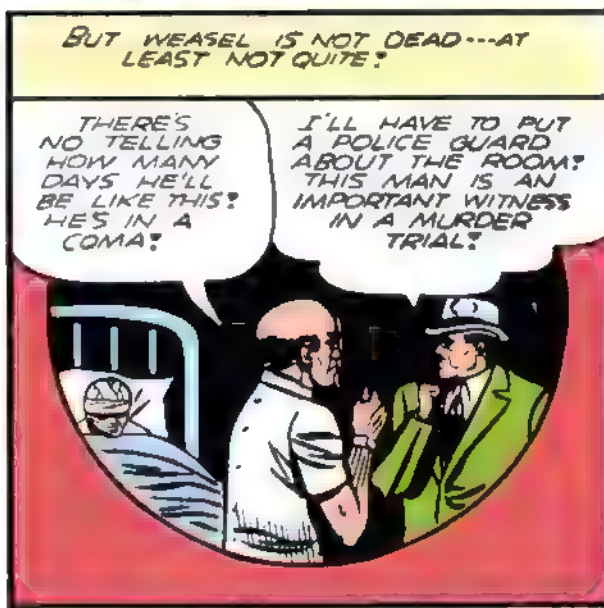
AS THE TERRIFIED WEASEL VENNER RACES ACROSS THE GUTTER, HE TURNS A FEAR-STRIKEN FACE UPON A HEAVY CAR THAT BEARS DOWN ON HIM!



.... THE CAR LEADS AWAY IN THE NIGHT, LEAVING BEHIND A SPRAWLED, TWISTED FIGURE!

IT WAS A HIT-AND-RUN DRIVER! I SAW IT!

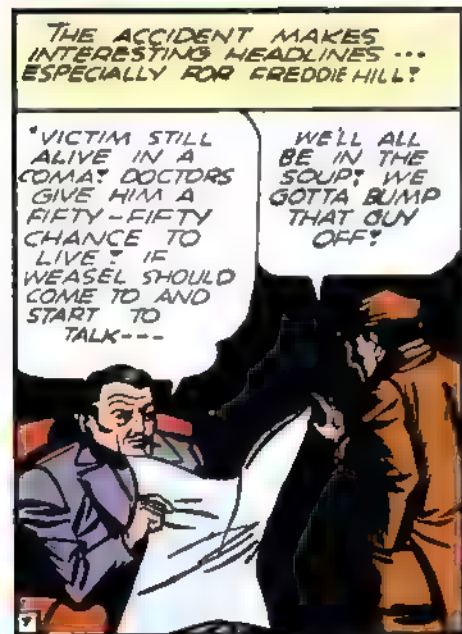
EEE-- THAT MAN'S BEEN KILLED!



BUT WEASEL IS NOT DEAD---AT LEAST NOT QUITE?

THERE'S NO TELLING HOW MANY DAYS HE'LL BE LIKE THIS! HE'S IN A COMA!

I'LL HAVE TO PUT A POLICE GUARD ABOUT THE ROOM! THIS MAN IS AN IMPORTANT WITNESS IN A MURDER TRIAL!



THE ACCIDENT MAKES INTERESTING HEADLINES... ESPECIALLY FOR FREDDIE HILL?

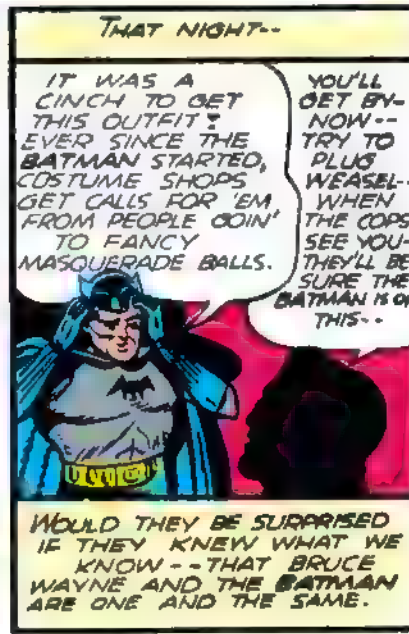
*VICTIM STILL ALIVE IN A COMA! DOCTORS GIVE HIM A FIFTY-FIFTY CHANCE TO LIVE! IF WEASEL SHOULD COME TO AND START TO TALK---

WE'LL ALL BE IN THE SOUP! WE GOTTA BUMP THAT GUY OFF!



MAYBE THIS ROBIN KID WILL GO TO THE COPPER AND TELL HOW WE WERE TRYING TO TAKE WEASEL FOR A RIDE!

NOT YET? REMEMBER THAT NIGHT THE COPS SAW THE BATMAN IN DELMAR'S OFFICE? I THINK I GOT AN IDEA HOW TO USE THAT!

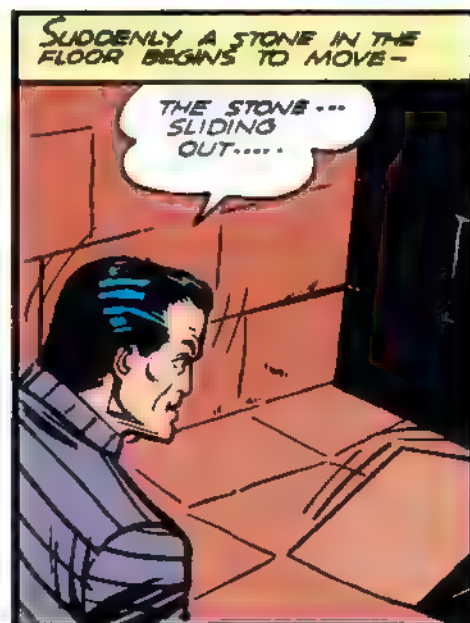
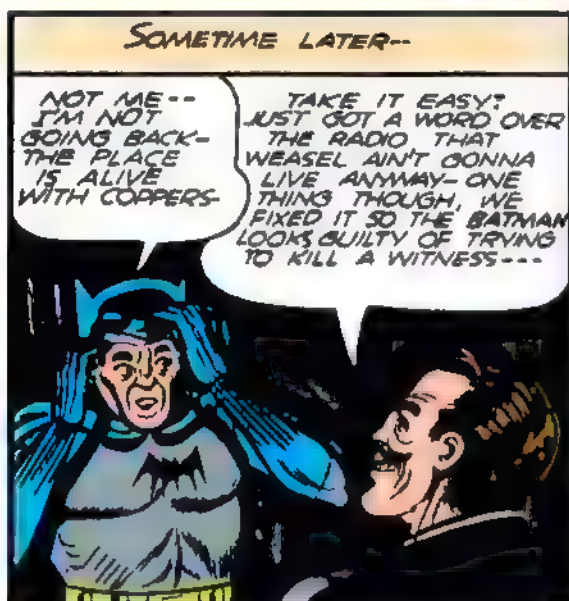


THAT NIGHT--

IT WAS A CINCH TO GET THIS OUTFIT! EVER SINCE THE BATMAN STARTED, COSTUME SHOPS GET CALLS FOR 'EM FROM PEOPLE GOIN' TO FANCY MASQUERADE BALLS.

YOU'LL GET BY-- NOW-- TRY TO PLUS WEASEL-- WHEN THE COPS SEE YOU-- THEY'LL BE SURE THE BATMAN IS ON THIS--

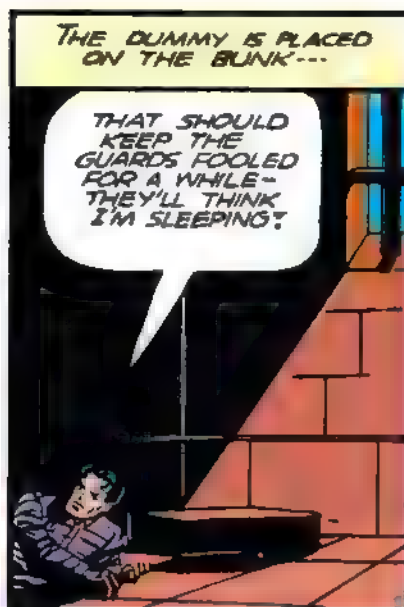
WOULD THEY BE SURPRISED IF THEY KNEW WHAT WE KNOW-- THAT BRUCE WAYNE AND THE BATMAN ARE ONE AND THE SAME.





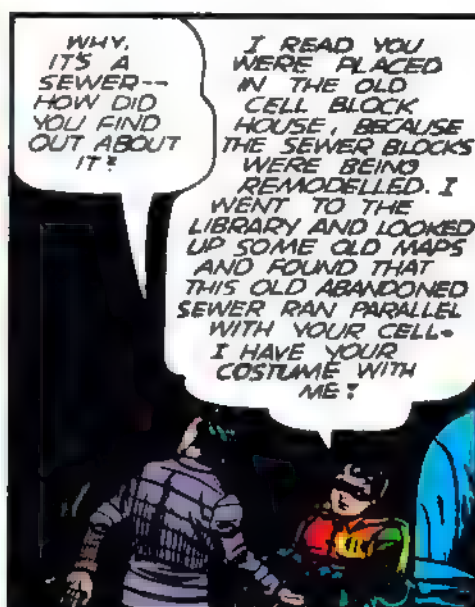
ROBIN?
HOW?

SHHH! I'VE
BROUGHT A
DUMMY TO
TAKE YOUR
PLACE --



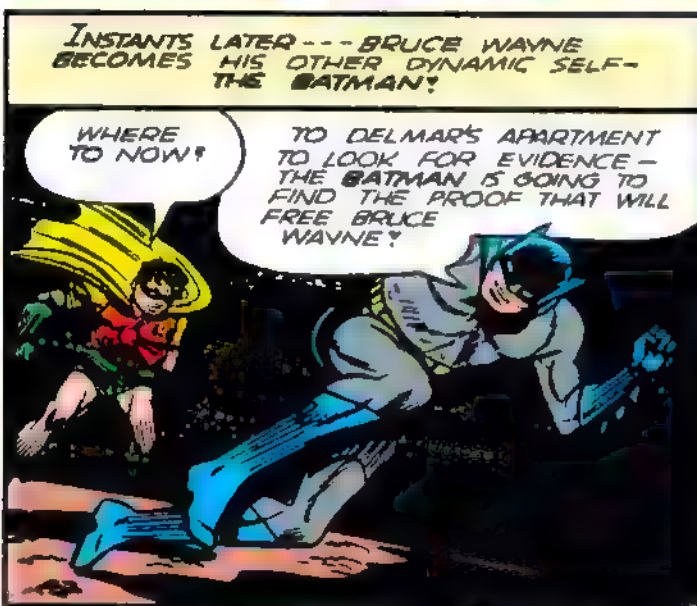
THE DUMMY IS PLACED
ON THE BUNK---

THAT SHOULD
KEEP THE
GUARDS FOOLED
FOR A WHILE--
THEY'LL THINK
I'M SLEEPING!



WHY,
IT'S A
SEWER--
HOW DID
YOU FIND
OUT ABOUT
IT?

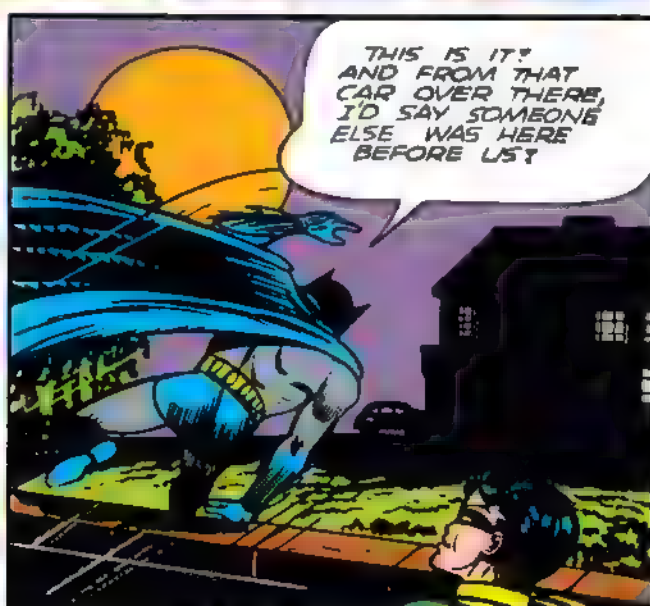
I READ YOU
WERE PLACED
IN THE OLD
CELL BLOCK
HOUSE, BECAUSE
THE SEWER BLOCKS
WERE BEING
REMODELLED. I
WENT TO THE
LIBRARY AND LOOKED
UP SOME OLD MAPS
AND FOUND THAT
THIS OLD ABANDONED
SEWER RAN PARALLEL
WITH YOUR CELL--
I HAVE YOUR
COSTUME WITH
ME!



INSTANTS LATER--- BRUCE WAYNE
BECOMES HIS OTHER DYNAMIC SELF--
THE BATMAN!

WHERE
TO NOW?

TO DELMAR'S APARTMENT
TO LOOK FOR EVIDENCE--
THE BATMAN IS GOING TO
FIND THE PROOF THAT WILL
FREE BRUCE
WAYNE!



THIS IS IT?
AND FROM THAT
CAR OVER THERE,
I'D SAY SOMEONE
ELSE WAS HERE
BEFORE US?



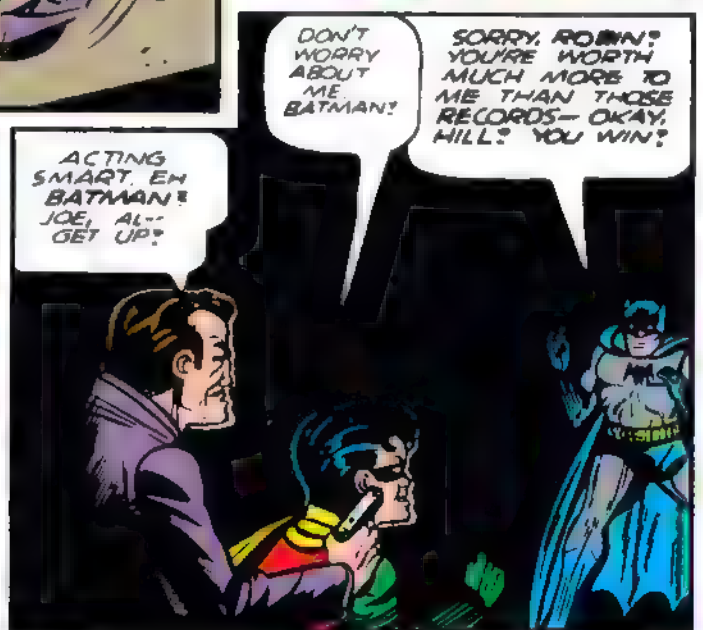
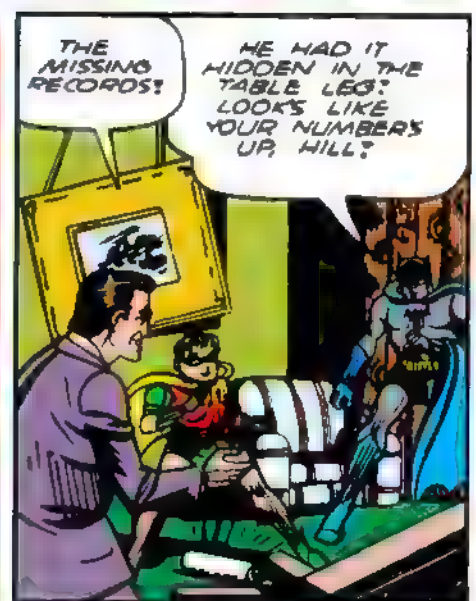
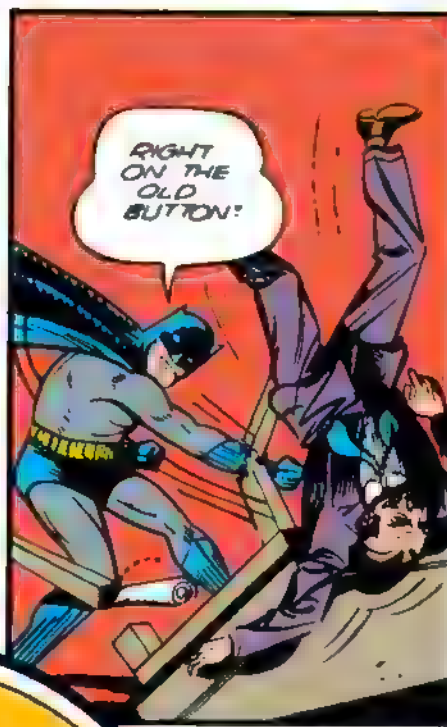
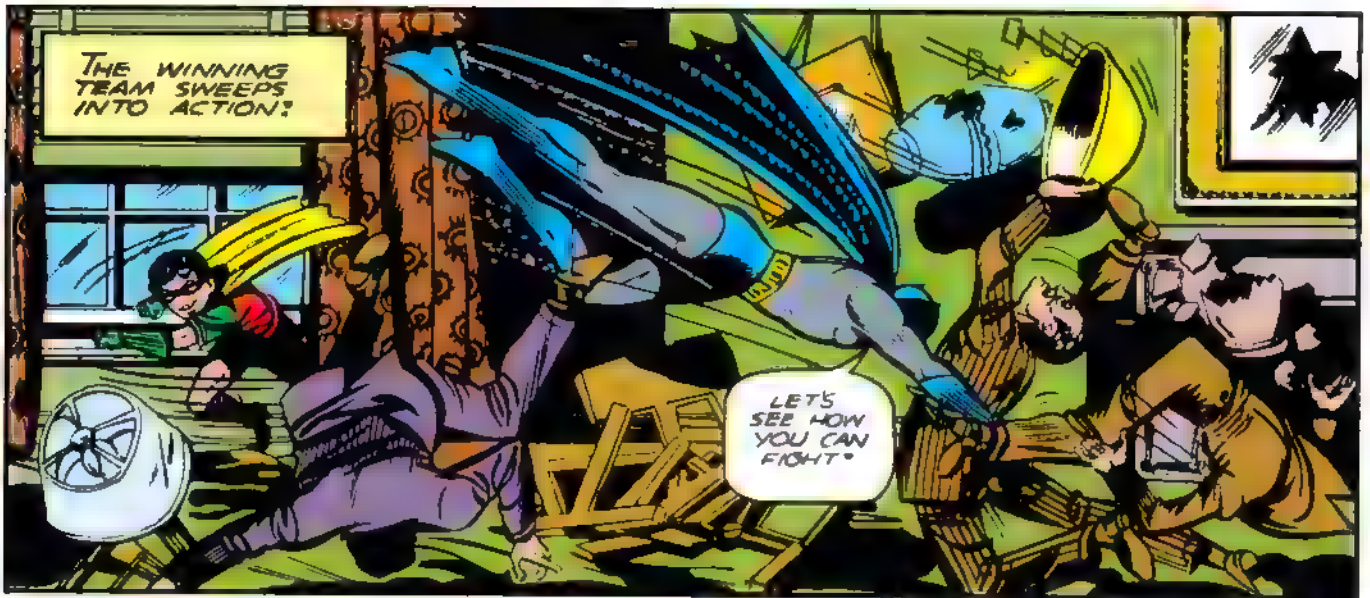
WE
CAN'T
FIND
IT?

THEN KEEP
LOOKING!
DELMAR HID
THOSE RECORDS
SOME PLACE!
THOSE RECORDS
WOULD BLAST
ME RIGHT INTO
A PRISON CELL,
IF THE COPPERS
SHOULD FIND
THEM!



HILL-- YOU'RE
LOOKING FOR THE
RECORDS, TOO?
COINCIDENCE, ISN'T
IT?

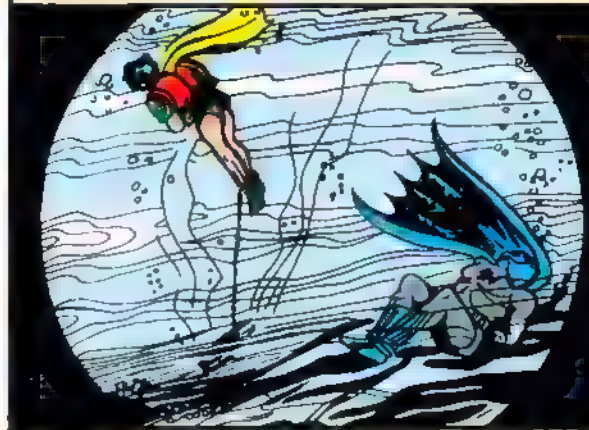
THE
BATMAN?



LATER--ON A DESERTED PIER-- WITH IRON TIED TO THEIR FEET, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE THROWN TOWARD SWIRLING WATERS?



DOWN--DOWN--SINK THE WEIGHTED BODIES, DOWN TO THE RIVER BED--



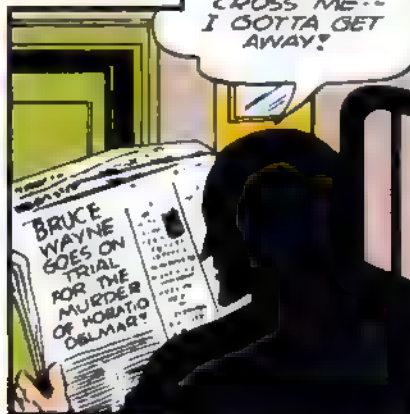
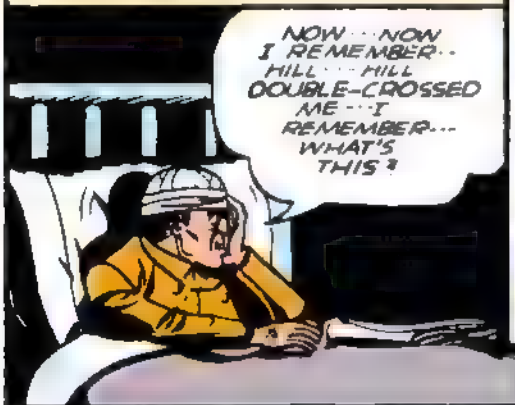
-- WHERE DEATH WAITS TO DRIVE THE BREATH FROM THEIR BURSTING LUNGS?

OH, YEAH--? WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT-- I'M GONNA DIE ANYWAY-- BUT I'LL SHOW HILL WHAT IT MEANS TO DOUBLE-CROSS ME-- I GOTTA GET AWAY?

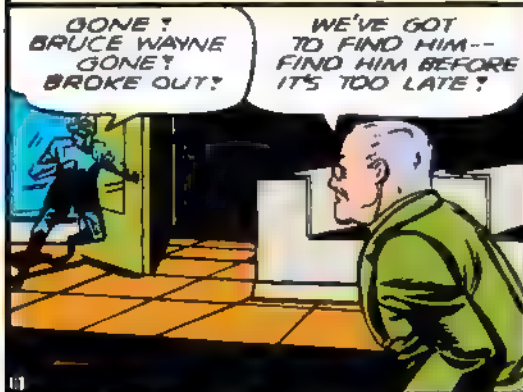
AND WHEN THE NURSE RETURNS SHE FINDS WEASEL IS--

GONE? HE'S GONE-- THROUGH THAT OPEN WINDOW?

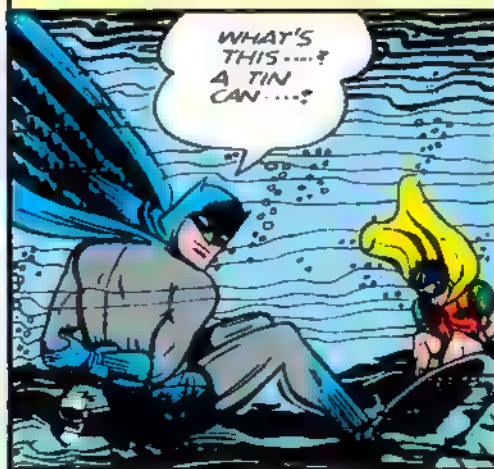
WEASEL HAS JUST COME OUT OF THE COMA, AS HIS NURSE RACES TO CALL THE DOCTOR?



AND TWO POLICE GUARDS, WHO HAVE BEEN SENT TO FETCH BRUCE WAYNE TO TRIAL, RACE BACK TO INFORM THE ASTOUNDED COURT THAT HE, TOO, IS--

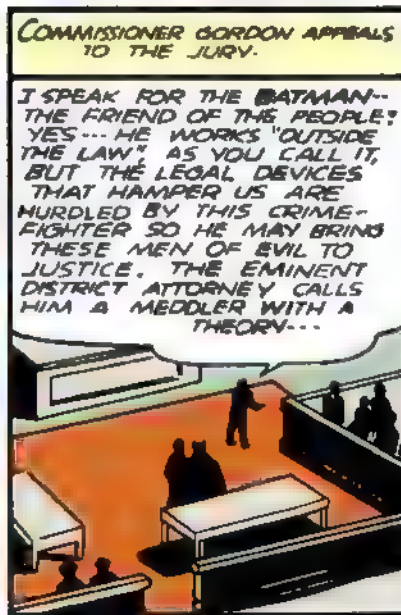
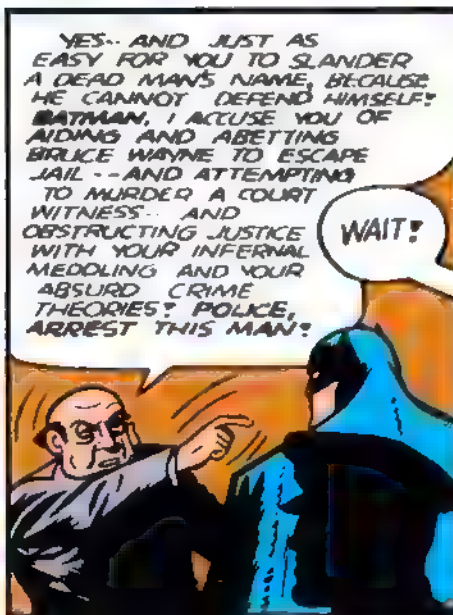
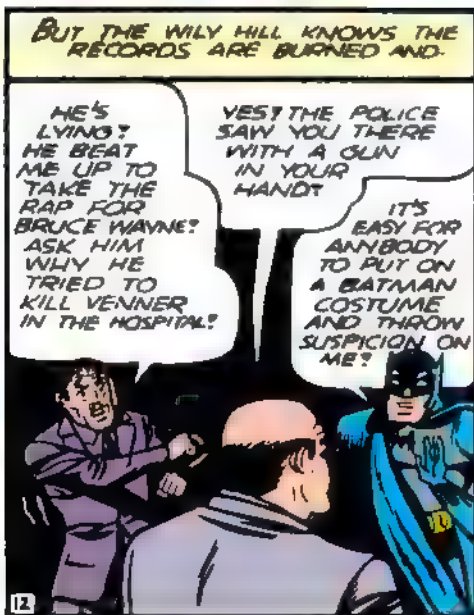
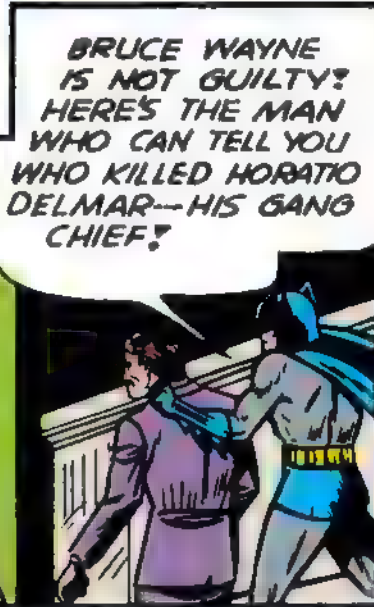
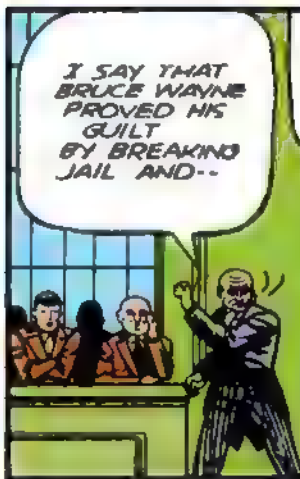
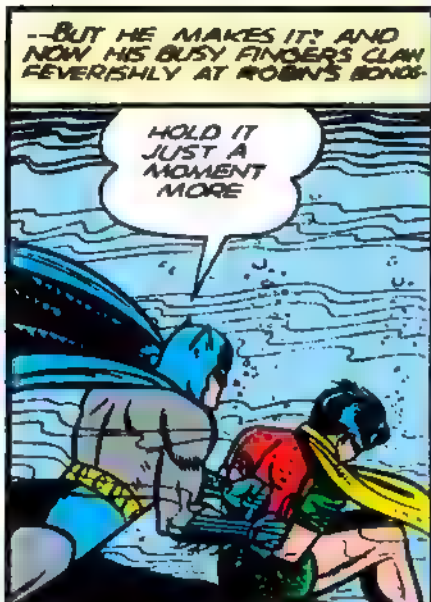


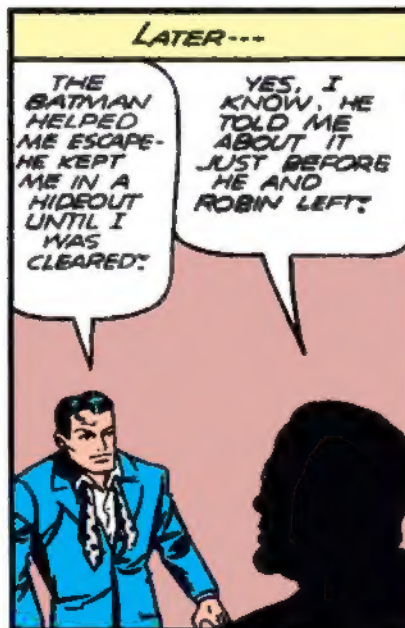
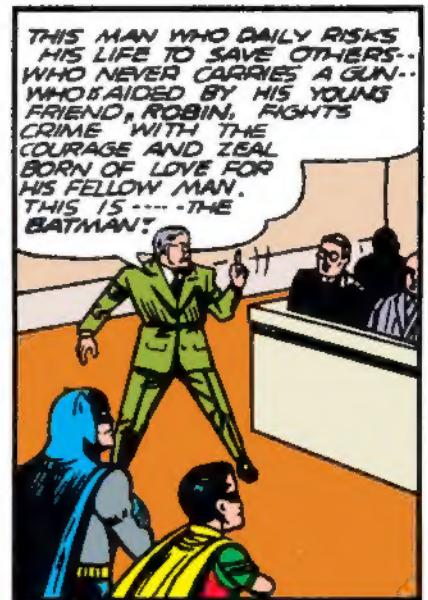
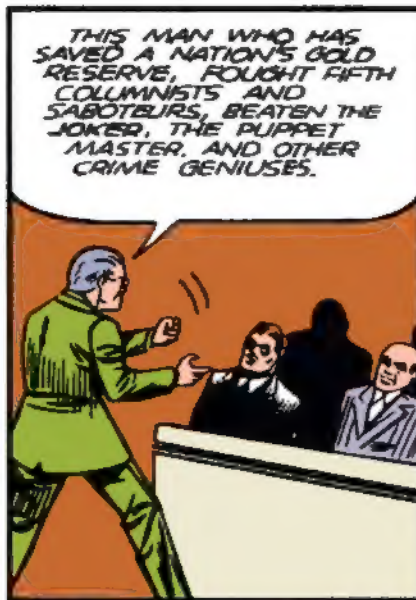
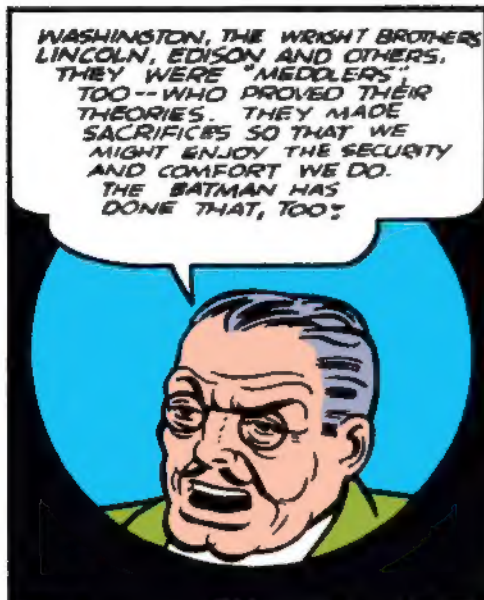
"FIND HIM BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE"-- TRUE WORDS? FOR AT THIS VERY MOMENT, BRUCE WAYNE, THE BATMAN, FIGHTS FOR HIS LIFE ON THE BOTTOM OF THE RIVER?



DESPERATELY, THE BATMAN RAKES HIS BONDS, BACK AND FORTH, ON THE ROUGH EDGE--..... WILL HE FREE HIMSELF IN TIME?







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American popular culture has produced few heroic figures as famous and enduring as that of the Batman. The dark, mysterious hero who debuted in 1939's *DETECTIVE COMICS* #27 as the lone "Bat-man" quickly grew into the legend of the Caped Crusader. After his landmark debut and origin story, the Dark Knight was given many seminal elements, including his partner in crime-fighting Robin, the Boy Wonder, and such adversaries as the Joker, the Penguin and Scarecrow.

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This second volume of **BATMAN: THE GOLDEN AGE** collects the Dark Knight Detective's early adventures from *BATMAN* #4-7, *DETECTIVE COMICS* #46-56, *WORLD'S BEST COMICS* #1 and *WORLD'S FINEST COMICS* #2-3.

